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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January 1901.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(7306.)

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PART 19.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN MOROCCO.

31

1899.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. July 1899.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Morocco.

Part 19.

No. 1.

The Law Officers of the Crown to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6.)

My Lord, *Royal Courts of Justice, January* 4, 1899.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands, signified in Mr. Villiers' letter of the 23rd ultimo, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to us the correspondence noted in the accompanying list relative to a request received from Mr. Henry Grey to be furnished with copies of certain documents which were in the possession of the Foreign Office, or failing that to be allowed at least to have access to them.

That Mr. Grey was a member of the expedition dispatched in the course of last year to the Sus districts of Morocco under the auspices of the Globe Venture Syndicate, an account of whose proceedings was contained in the letter addressed to us from the Foreign Office on the 25th May last, and having on that occasion landed in Morocco and been arrested by the soldiers of the Sultan he was eventually taken to Tangier, tried in the Consular Court on a charge of smuggling, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

That on the receipt of Mr. Grey's first application to be furnished with copies of the letters sent to the Globe Venture Syndicate, warning them of the illegal character of the enterprize, he was informed that the originals of any such letters were presumably in the possession of the Syndicate, and that he should consult his solicitors as to the means by which discovery and inspection of those documents might be obtained, and their production at the trial of this action, if necessary, be secured.

That Mr. Grey had, however, since explained that it was with a view to arriving at a decision as to whether he had good ground of action against the Syndicate—no action as yet having been begun—that he desired to have copies of the warnings sent to them, or if that was not possible, to read them.

That Mr. Villiers was accordingly to request that we would take the papers into our consideration, and favour your Lordship with our opinion as to what answer should be returned to Mr. Grey.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have taken the papers into our consideration, and have the honour to

Report—

That, in our opinion, copies of the letters passing between the Foreign Office and the Globe Venture Syndicate should not at present be shown to Mr. Grey.

In the event of his taking proceedings against the Syndicate he may become entitled to obtain copies or information as to their contents, but in the present

stage of the proceedings he should be left to take such action as he thinks fit. He should be informed that Her Majesty's Government are not able to give him the information he desires, or to permit inspection of the copies of documents in their possession.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD E. WEBSTER.
ROBERT B. FINLAY.

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 7.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 1, 1899.

THE Spanish local press continues to publish sensational news as to the situation at Tafilet, asserting that it has become extremely grave. My information, which is derived from two independent and usually well-informed sources, is to the effect that all is quite quiet for the present at Tafilet, and that Muley Errashid has been confirmed as Viceroy, and received assurances of the goodwill and support of the Sultan. The caravan roads between Fez and Tafilet are open and free, and the caravans continue to arrive regularly and without delay or impediment.

The situation on the Algerian frontier is, however, not so clear or so reassuring, and I am privately informed from the Court that the Moorish Government is still very uneasy as to the possible developments of affairs there. It has been reported to me that the Governor of Figuig has informed the Government that all the tribes in his district have given him assurances of their loyalty to the Sultan, and of their determination to resist any incursion from outside.

The Moorish Government fears that the Algerian authorities are contemplating a serious movement towards Tuat, and is conscious of its inability to offer any successful resistance. Competent authorities consider it doubtful if the Figuig tribes would, when the moment arrived, act up to the assurances which their Governor alleges they have tendered. A foreign expedition towards Tuat would probably encourage all malcontents in those parts to revive their hostility against the Moorish Government. The latter has little to fear from internal discontent, but if it is encouraged and supported by outside assistance the situation would be much aggravated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1899.

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon with respect to the policy which the two countries should pursue on the Moorish question. He expressed himself very earnestly in favour of the pursuit by Spain of a policy that was friendly to Great Britain. He did not mention Gibraltar, but he spoke at some length on the question of Morocco. He was anxious that, in respect to this country, Spain and Great Britain should pursue the same policy. He believed that their objects were the same. They neither of them contemplated any territorial acquisition, and would look with great regret upon any combination of events that should force the consideration of such a policy upon them. They were anxious to maintain the *statu quo*, and he believed that their interests were so strongly in favour of that policy, that in combination they would be able to enforce it. Some observations were made by me with respect to the policy of France in that region; but his Excellency pointed out that, though in reference to the Valleys of Figuig and Tuat the action of the French local officers might excite suspicion, or even apprehension, it was not possible for France to make any extension of the Algerian frontier up to that coast without adopting an openly hostile attitude to Morocco, and that he thought that England and Spain together would frustrate any such attempts. I expressed the feelings of

Her Majesty's Government as generally most friendly to the Government of the Queen-Regent, and most anxious to act in every matter where we could in conformity with Spanish views. I quite recognized that the policy sustaining the *statu quo* was the policy which was imposed by existing conditions upon both Governments, and I expressed the hope that we should be able to co-operate heartily in maintaining it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 3, 1899.

THE "Conseil d'Hygiène" here, which forms in a measure the Municipality of Tangier, and which is a body dependent on the foreign Representatives, has suggested that some small rates or taxes should be imposed on the inhabitants of this town, so that the scanty funds at present available for sanitary and other improvements should be increased. Tangier is an increasing town, and no inhabitant pays any compulsory contribution to its proper maintenance. The question of taxation formed the subject of a considerable correspondence between your Lordship's Department and my predecessor, but owing to various causes the matter never reached any definite conclusion.

The "Conseil d'Hygiène" recently submitted a schedule of some proposed taxes to the Diplomatic Body, and I have the honour to inclose a copy. This is merely an experimental and tentative measure; and should it meet with the approval of the several Governments, and be successfully carried into execution, it would probably be the prelude for a larger and more comprehensive scheme, which would not only lead to a wider system of taxation, but also necessitate a remodelling of the "Conseil d'Hygiène" and its reconstruction into a municipal body, somewhat similar to that of Alexandria.

The proposed taxes have been referred by all my colleagues to their respective Governments, with strong recommendations for their acceptance, and the Sultan's Deputy has engaged to recommend them to the Moorish Government.

The tax of 5 centim. of a peseta, somewhat under a halfpenny, on packages passing through the custom-house, would scarcely be perceptible, but would bring in a certain small revenue. Those British importers and exporters with whom I have spoken have no objection to this trifling impost.

The other taxes are very moderate, and would offer no difficulty in collecting; and I venture to hope that your Lordship will sanction their imposition on British subjects, provided that the Moorish and other Governments agree to their nationals being equally subjected thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Proposed System of Taxes for Tangier.

TAXES dont l'introduction a été approuvée en principe par le Conseil Sanitaire.

PROJET No. 1.—*Colis* (*colis postaux exceptés*).

5 centimes de peseta par colis passant par la Douane (exportation ou importation).						
5	„	„	pour chaque 10 planches de bois		„	„
5	„	„	„	10 quintaux fer	„	„
5	„	„	„	10 quintaux charbon	„	„
5	„	„	„	100 briques ou tuiles	„	„

PROJET No. 2.—*Boutiques et Magasins.*

	Par Mois.
	Pes. c.
Boutiques de 1re classe payant un loyer au-dessus de 50 pesetas par mois	2 00
Boutiques de 2e classe payant un loyer de 25 à 50 pesetas par mois ..	1 00
„ 3e „ „ de 10 à 25 „ „ ..	0 25

PROJET No. 3.—*Hôtels, Cafés, Industries.*

	Par Mois.
	Pes. c.
Hôtels de 1re classe	10 00
„ 2e „	2 50
Casinos ou cercles privés	5 00
Cafés de 1re classe	5 00
Cafés Arabes	1 00
Fabriques, bois, farine, lumière électrique	5 00
„ fer, limonades, savon, briques	5 00
„ tabac	5 00
Imprimeries	2 00
Photographes (ateliers)	2 00
Concessionnaire du marché	25 00
Fondaks pour chevaux	5 00
Écuries de chevaux à louer	2 50

No. 5.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 4, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 167 of the 9th December last, I have the honour to report that I learn privately from the Court that the reply of the Grand Vizier as to the reason why the Bocoyan tribe in the Riff was punished was communicated to the French Government, and that the latter has replied that the explanations of the Grand Vizier are unsatisfactory, and that, consequently, the proposed Moorish Mission will not be received in Paris. The statement of the Grand Vizier, to the effect that the Bocoyans were punished for their piratical acts, is, I think, strictly accurate. There is, however, no doubt that the fact of the Bocoyans having solicited, and it is said obtained assurances of, French protection was known to the Moorish Government, and it very probably increased the resentment of the Moorish Government towards them, and also made the Grand Vizier desirous of showing that such applications for foreign protection did not exempt unruly Moorish subjects from the consequences of their illegal acts. On the other hand, the French authorities are desirous, in view of their general relations with the Riff tribes, of obtaining an official denial that the question of French protection was an element in the punitive measures recently adopted, and I presume that if they consider it worth while to insist on this denial being formally recorded, it will eventually be conceded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 6.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 6, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 156 of the 17th November last, I have the honour to report that a Commission of the leading Moorish officials has recently inspected the Tangier prison. They have ordered that the prison should be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed and new matting supplied, as well as an extra allowance of food to each prisoner.

The British Vice-Consul at Tetuan reports that orders have been received from the Court that the prison should be whitewashed and the sanitary arrangements put into proper order. Moreover, care is to be taken that the prisoners receive a proper allowance of food, and that clothing be supplied to those who are in need of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 7.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 7, 1899.

CID BENASSAR GHANNAM called upon me this morning, and communicated to me a note from the Grand Vizier in reply to the communication waich I had made to his Excellency in regard to the punishment of the Governor who had ill-treated the British-protected persons, and a copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 154 of the 12th November, 1898.

I beg leave to inclose a translation of the note from the Grand Vizier, in which his Excellency informs me that the Governor has been punished, and gives me to understand that the correction which has been inflicted is exceptional and exemplary.

Cid Ghannam said he wished to tell me that the Governor had been called to Morocco city, that he had been kept under arrest there, had been forced to return, either in money or in kind, all the property taken from the protected persons, which property had been estimated, without inquiry, at the valuation of the latter; and that he had also been compelled to reimburse the Government for the indemnity which Her Majesty's Government had exacted. Moreover, the protected persons have been freed from the jurisdiction of the offending Governor, and have been placed under that of another, with instructions that all care and attention should be accorded to them.

Cid Ghannam asked me if I was satisfied with these measures, and whether the incident might now be considered closed.

After some conversation I consented to accept the reparation made, and I trust your Lordship will approve of my having done so. It is extremely rare for the Government to openly visit its displeasure on any official at the request of a foreign Legation, and as the lesson which the Government has administered has been public, and will, no doubt, be widely known, the chief object in view, namely, to show provincial authorities that Treaties cannot be violated with impunity, will have been fully attained. Moreover, I do not think it would be prudent policy, after the complete satisfaction which has been accorded, to insist on a severer or more lengthy punishment than that which has been imposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 10 *Shaaban*, 1316 (*December* 24, 1898).

WE received your reply, inclosing a Memorandum of the statements taken down from the Semsar Mokhtar-el-Hasseeni and those with him, relative to that which happened to them with Kaïd Shteewi-el-Abdi, in detail, having previously sent us the information thereof in general terms; so that the Maghzen might know therefrom the facts of the occurrence and what severe punishment of the Kaïd it would be suitable to adopt, which you asked to be informed of, so that you may report to your Government—the exalted—that the Shereefian Government had given attention to the gravity of this matter, and had meted out a suitable punishment in it; we brought this to the knowledge of our Lord—God assist him—and he took cognizance thereof, and he commanded me to reply to you that which has been explained to you in writing and verbally through the Ameen Cid Benasser Ghannam, that the Maghzen has given great attention to the elucidation of this case, and that the complainants had obtained their rights, and that correction and punishment have been meeted out to him who did them wrong, and, over and above this, the Maghzen has not shrunk from other things grievous to him which are exceptional, and which are not hidden from you. All this has been done from regard to a matter in which the British Government is interested, so that although you have not witnessed some of this that has been done, you will doubtless have heard of it from other sources. In any case, as the treatment of this matter with you in the first place was through the Ameen Cid Benassar Ghannam, a letter has been issued to him now to meet you and explain to you about this more fully. Therefore meet him, oh, intelligent one.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 9, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of certain Regulations affecting the cleanliness and good order of Tangier, which have been agreed upon by the foreign Representatives and the Moorish authorities here. In accordance with Article 109 of the Morocco Order in Council, I beg leave to solicit your Lordship's approval of these Regulations, and as my colleagues are anxious to put them in force as soon as possible, I should be grateful if I might receive your Lordship's approval by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Regulations.

THE Representatives of His Shereefian Majesty and of foreign Powers at Tangier have agreed upon the following Regulations:—

Article 1. No person shall expose for sale on the public road any article whatsoever in such a manner as to interfere with free circulation.

Art. 2. No person shall throw out on to the public road between the hours of 8 A.M. and 10 P.M. any dirty water, rubbish, or refuse whatsoever.

Art. 3. No person shall gallop or drive unhobbled animals to the watering places in the streets of the town or in the outer "Soko."

Art. 4. Owners and drivers of beasts of burthen shall not overload their animals in such a manner as to endanger the safety of passers by.

Art. 5. Cattle shall not be allowed to go unhobbled in the interior of the town, or outside in the great "Soko;" and also it is forbidden to slaughter pigs in the streets.

Art. 6. The material from a buildiug that has been pulled down, or for a building to be erected, shall not be left on the public road longer than necessary.

Art. 7. Any proprietor or tenant who has been authorized to carry out any work on the public road, such as repair of a drain, shall finish the work as quickly as possible, and shall himself bear the expense.

Art. 8. Any person convicted of an offence against these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of not less than 1 real vellon (about 2*d.*), nor exceeding 5 pesetas (about 3*s.* 4*d.*).

For the second offence, the fine shall be not less than 1 peseta (about 8*d.*), nor more than 20 pesetas (about 13*s.* 4*d.*); and for a third or subsequent offence, not less than 2 pesetas (1*s.* 4*d.*), nor more than 50 pesetas (1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*).

These fines shall be imposed by the respective Consulates of the offender's nationalities, or, in the case of Moorish subjects, by the Basha. The amount of these fines to be imposed in each case brought before them, shall be left to the discretion of the Consulates or Basha.

Art. 9. These Regulations shall be published in the local newspapers in Spanish, French, and English. They shall also be translated into Arabic, and placarded in the principal streets of the town, in order that they may be brought to the knowledge of the natives.

Seen and approved at Tangier, the day of , 189 .

No. 9.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. M. Grey.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1899.

THE Marquess of Salisbury has had under consideration your letter of the 9th ultimo, in which you request information as to the contents of the communications addressed from this Office to the Globe Venture Syndicate, in order that your solicitor may advise you whether you have a good ground of action against the Syndicate.

I am directed by his Lordship to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government cannot permit you to inspect copies of the letters in their possession or furnish you with the information which you desire as to their contents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 10.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 21, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 6 of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of a note from the Grand Vizier relative to the punishment which has been inflicted on Kaïd Shteewi on account of his ill-treatment of certain British-protected persons.

In reply, I have to inform you that I have learned with much satisfaction from the Grand Vizier's note and from the remarks made to you by Cid Benasser Ghannam, as reported in your despatch, that Kaïd Shteewi has at length been severely punished for his cruelty, and I have to express my approval of your having accepted the reparation thus offered by the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 11.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Foreign Office, January 26, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a despatch, and its inclosure, from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* repeating a suggestion made by the Conseil d'Hygiène at that port that certain rates or taxes should be levied on the inhabitants to increase the funds available for sanitary or other improvements.

Some years ago, at a meeting of the foreign Representatives at Tangier with reference to sanitary improvements, a proposal was brought forward to levy a tax of 1 peseta on each ox, and one-quarter peseta on each box of eggs (1,000 to 1,200) and each basket of chickens exported from Tangier.

The British Representative, Mr. White, opposed the proposal, which eventually came to nothing, and, in reporting his action, explained that these taxes, which would, in fact, be export duties, would fall almost entirely on British and Spanish subjects. The course he had taken was entirely approved, and he was instructed not to agree to the imposition of any additional taxes or duties on British subjects without the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Satow, who shortly afterwards was appointed to Tangier, subsequently pointed out more fully the hardship such taxes would inflict upon British subjects, and he further explained, with regard to a proposal to levy a general tax of 1 per cent. on all goods imported into Tangier, that a very considerable part of the imports pass out again for consumption; and that an increase of import duties would have the effect of diverting the larger portions of the trade to other ports, and must, therefore, be dismissed as incapable of adoption.

Among the taxes now proposed by the Conseil d'Hygiène is a tax of 5 centimes of a peseta on packages passing through the custom-house. The tax in question would, Sir A. Nicolson says, "scarcely be perceptible," and those British importers and exporters with whom he has spoken see no objection to it.

The tax is, however, an increase of the taxes on imports and exports, and, as such, appears to be open to the objections urged by Mr. White and Mr. Satow. Sir A. Nicolson, moreover, alludes to the present scheme as merely an experimental measure, which, if carried successfully into execution, would probably be the prelude for a larger and more comprehensive scheme. It is possible, therefore, that the proposed small tax on packages passing through the customs might, if sanctioned, develop, at some future time, into a serious increase of the import and export taxes.

Under the circumstances, Lord Salisbury would be glad of the opinion of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade as to whether it would be advisable to sanction the imposition of this tax, and, if so, whether it might not be as well to instruct Sir A. Nicolson, in agreeing to it, to make it clear that Her Majesty's Government will not be prepared to consent to any increase of the tax in the future.

For convenience of reference, I am to inclose a Table, detailed from the last Tangier Trade Report for 1897,† showing how large an interest Great Britain and Gibraltar have in the trade of Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 27, 1899.

BY order of his Government the Spanish Minister to-day conveyed to me, for transmission to your Lordship, formal assurances of Spain's desire to act entirely in harmony with England for the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco, as well as

* No. 4.

† Annual Series, Morocco, No. 2131.

for the removal of all causes of anxiety or doubt as to freedom of the Straits and security of Gibraltar Harbour. He informed me that he was authorized to say that Spain was entirely free from any understanding or arrangement with any other Power to the contrary.

Although he had no specific proposal to make, he indicated that these assurances might form the basis of an interchange of views, in any form your Lordship might desire, between the two Governments.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 17, 1899.

FROM information which reaches me from the interior, it would appear that the Government is becoming more than usually exacting in forcing money from the provincial Governors, and that many of the latter are in great difficulties as to how they should meet the ever-recurring calls. As an instance of the straits to which the Governors are driven the Kaïd of Meduna, near Casablanca, was recently called upon for about 4,000*l*. He assembled the chief men of his district, and only ventured to apply to them for a third of the amount, and eventually succeeded in collecting only about 40*l*. He attributes this to the large numbers in his district who are under foreign protection, and has so informed the Grand Vizier, begging his Excellency to take this fact into account.

There is no doubt that foreign protection is being considerably extended in some measure legitimately, as merchants find it now impossible to carry on business except through men over whom they have some control. At the same time, I hear that some of the French Consular authorities on the coast are granting protection-papers in a very liberal manner; and the French Vice-Consul at Saffi, I hear from two different sources, has been exceptionally active in this direction.

It is clear that if the Grand Vizier persists in his policy of pitilessly exacting extravagant sums from the people, most of which flows into his own private purse, the inducements to seek foreign protection become very great.

The Government has also recently adopted a novel measure of obtaining fresh supplies of money. Each Governor is made responsible for the recruits which are drawn from his province, and for each man who deserts, and desertions are frequent, he is compelled to pay a sum of 500 dollars (about 70*l*.). If the deserter is retaken, half of this sum is returned to the Governor.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties and embarrassments, trade has improved recently owing to the last abundant harvest.

If there were but ordinary security for life and property, and the Government were just and reasonable in its demands on the people, prosperity and tranquillity would soon be established. There are no signs, unfortunately, that these essential conditions will be observed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 14.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord,

Madrid, January 13, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 3.

Yesterday the Italian Ambassador called to say that the Spanish Minister at Tangier was alarmed concerning the rising at Tafilet. His Excellency had received instructions not to broach the subject either of Morocco or the former agreement, and asked me what course I was to adopt.

I replied that I had received no specific orders, but that I should certainly take no step unless instructed by your Lordship.

Telegrams from Tangier to-day give bad accounts of the insurrection both at Tafilet and on the French frontier.

The Italian Ambassador said he thought the Spanish Government had lost all illusions about France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 23, 1899.*

I HAVE been informed from a fairly trustworthy source that the French authorities have circulated a notification in the Tuat Oasis that those who are unwilling to accept French rule should leave the district, and that French forces have appeared at Kerzaza near Tuat, and at Baidea, a little to the north. I can find neither of these places on any map in my possession. I am also told by the same correspondent that a French force is at Kermel, near Figuig.

All these reports require corroboration, although perhaps not improbable in themselves. I will endeavour to ascertain whether there is any real foundation for them, but trustworthy news as to movements in the above-mentioned districts is exceedingly difficult to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 27, 1899.*

THE Spanish Minister called upon me this morning with the view, he said, of speaking to me on a question which was of considerable moment to both our countries.

He had, he informed me, taken advantage of a short stay he recently made in Madrid, on his return from the Peace Conference at Paris, to speak to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the relations between Spain and Great Britain in the regions where they come into the closest contact—namely, Morocco and the Straits of Gibraltar. He summed up the chief points of the conversation, on which the views of his Minister and of himself were in agreement, under the following heads.

The interests of Spain and Great Britain in the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco were identical. It was to the advantage of Spain to be on friendly relations with Great Britain, and to work in harmony with her in all questions affecting either Morocco or the Straits of Gibraltar. During the recent war a certain tension had occurred in these relations, caused partly by misunderstanding and partly by the possibly exaggerated fears as to the alliance between Great Britain and the United States. This attitude of mind in Spain had led to certain defensive measures being taken in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar, which, occurring at a moment when serious difficulties had arisen between Great Britain and France, had aroused uneasiness on the part of Great Britain as to the security of her works at Gibraltar. Had complications ensued between Great Britain and France, the former might have regarded the above-mentioned defensive measures in a serious light, and steps might have been taken on her part which would have rendered the tension of relations with Spain still more acute. It was desirable to remove all causes of future misunderstandings or possible complications in connection with these questions. The relations between Great Britain and the United States, whatever developments they might take in the future, would be, hereafter, of indirect interest to Spain, while it was of very near interest to her to be on the best of terms with Great Britain. The interests of the two countries practically came into contact only in Morocco and the Straits of Gibraltar. It was, therefore, eminently desirable

that an understanding should be come to between the two countries on these two inseparable questions.

Since his return to Morocco he had been in further communication with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he had now been authorized to convey to me, for transmission to my Government, the most formal assurances that Spain had not at the present, and would not have in the future, any views incompatible with the strict maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco; that she had no wish to adopt any measures which could in any way be interpreted as indicating any danger to the absolute security of Gibraltar and its works; that her earnest wish in all matters affecting the freedom and security of the Straits and the integrity of Morocco was to act in harmony with Great Britain; and that she was completely free and unfettered from any engagement or understanding to the contrary with any other Power.

These assurances he had been commissioned to deliver to me as Spanish Representative, and they could be considered as an official exposition of the views of his Government. The assurances were general in character, and carried with them, he knew, no specific proposals; but they might form the basis of an interchange of views between the two Governments, either in London or Madrid, which might develop into a more complete understanding.

I informed M. de Ojeda that I would transmit to your Lordship the substance of the communication which he had been good enough to make to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

A. N.

No. 17.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February 9, 1899.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a series of notes by the Military Attaché at this Embassy on miscellaneous naval and military subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Notes by Major White.

MOROCCO: GENERAL SITUATION IN.—News from outlying districts in Morocco, as given in the Spanish newspapers, is so very uncertain and often so very incorrect, that the following digest of telegrams, &c., of the last six weeks is only given to show the nature of the intelligence upon which Spanish newspaper opinion is formed.

Disturbances in Bocoya and on the Algerian frontier have been going on now for some months. These, it is stated, have been much exaggerated, but have formed a pretext for pressure to be put on the Moorish Government (it is said by the French Government) to send some 1,500 troops to the northern portion of the Morocco-Algerian frontier. It is a generally-held opinion that, whatever may have been the state of affairs on that frontier, the presence there of the Imperial troops, the excesses committed, and the exactions enforced by them, will tend but little to pacification, and may call for the intervention of France.

"It is not troops . . . . but honest Governors and good administration that is wanted."

From this direction there are reports of an action, early in December, between the Beni Gil and the Beni Djid (?), in which the latter are said to have been wiped out.

It is also stated that, in January, a disturbance took place at Ajerad, on French territory. The first reports were much exaggerated, and a telegram from Oran, dated the 13th January, 1899, states that only one man was wounded, and that order was at once restored.

In the month of January the Sultan's troops are said to have suppressed a partial rising in the Atlas, under one Amagar Ali, of Genlagui (? Geulagui or Gellagui), called by one correspondent the Sheikh Ben Jelima (I have not been able to verify the name or district).

It is affirmed in several papers that sixty-six rebels were killed, and that a consignment of heads, including that of the Chief, has been sent to Morocco city. The correspondent of the "Imparcial" (22nd January, 1899), states that this has not suppressed the rising, which has spread to the Province of Entifa (Ntifa), whither troops have been dispatched.

The most serious rising is that in Tafilet, which several correspondents have not scrupled to affirm, is also being fomented by the French.

Tafilet is the ancestral home of the present reigning Shereefian family, and, it is stated, ("Liberal," 17th January, 1899), that the Shereefs of that place have declared that the present Sultan, Abdel Aziz, does not fulfil the conditions required by the Koran to exercise the supreme power and occupy the throne.

It is stated that two claimants to the throne are receiving support, Muley Ershid, uncle, and Muley Mahommed, brother of the present Sultan, but deponent sayeth not which of the two pretenders is favourite.

"The oppressive and sanguinary policy of the Grand Vizier, Bu Hamed, is the cause of many disturbances and up-risings."

Bu Hamed's favourite method of suppressing insurrection is by bribing some of the rebels and sowing distrust and jealousy among them, and then destroying them piecemeal.

It is said that Bu Hamed had recently endeavoured, and failed, to prove that he is a Shereef, which, if proved, would remove a religious bar to his permanent retention of a sceptre the usufruct of which he has enjoyed during the minority of the present Sultan. If this claim *was* made and *has* failed, it would probably be safer for him to keep the Sultan in power. If he has ulterior views, the present very disturbed and divided state of the kingdom might give him a chance, and might even be the result of his own machinations. Meanwhile, he is reported to be sending more and more reinforcements in the Tafilet direction, to oppose the continually increasing insurgent force, but is adverse to moving the Sultan and the better troops from Morocco city for fear of leaving, close to his base, the powerful Rahamna tribe. A tribe that can owe him no love since the bloody lesson of 1895.

P.S.—The attached extract, though written in 1894, is worthy of attention on account of its author, and gives a Spanish view of French frontier policy.

(Signed) W. L. WHITE, *Major*,
Military Attaché.

Madrid, February 9, 1899.

"*The Geography of Morocco*," *by Don Teodoro Bermudez Reino, Colonel of Artillery, late Spanish Military Attaché at Tangier*, 1894, *p.* 223.

With regard to the contemplated rectification of frontier, which the French have in view on the Morrocan frontier, we will say a few words.

The actual frontier between Algeria and Morocco is a purely imaginary line, and has been the cause of no small disquiet to the French. In all the insurrections that have taken place in Algeria, the rebels have taken refuge, and have defied the pursuit of which they have been the objects by simply crossing this line. It is not extraordinary, then, that France, a powerful nation, rich and enterprising, should seek to rectify this fictitious frontier and endeavour to secure another, marked by the natural features of the country, which shall prevent this easy passage between its African colony and the dominions of the Sultan. Whenever rebellions have taken place in Algeria, the Oasis of Figuig has always been the refuge of the insurgents. There they receive support, and rally, in order to return to the attack on the French; this oasis is, then, in cases of insurrection, a constant menace to the tranquillity of the French Colony. The occupation of this oasis is, then, of capital importance to the French for the security of Algeria, seeing that the rebels taking refuge there could be pursued, and, as the natural limit of the oasis on the western side is the River Guir, which runs from the crest of the Grand Atlas until about the Oasis of Touat, nothing is more natural than the desire to make this river the natural frontier between Morocco and Algeria, for that portion which lies south of the Atlas. Also, as the sources of the Guir and those of the Uizert, a tributary of the Muluya, are in the same part of the Atlas, though on opposite slopes, the natural frontier of the French Colony between the Atlas and the Mediterranean would be the right banks of the two

last-named rivers. Thus the tribes of the Beni-Snassen and Zekkara would be included in Algeria—tribes which, in former years, have given the French so much to do.

One must not deceive oneself, for the nation that has already sent its forerunners to Timbuctoo, and has projected the Trans-Sahara Railway between its colonies in the north and in the west of Africa, and which is, moreover, eager for military laurels, not to have undertaken this advance to the Muluya, the Uizert, and the Guir some years ago, is merely a question of time and opportunity. We must recognize this, whether it pleases us or no. What European nation could oppose, by force of arms, this rectification of frontiers? England! England is regardless of anything, except the occupation by another nation of a Moroccan fortress on the Strait, the English might grumble, more or less, for that grasping nation believes itself to have an exclusive right to annex countries, but it will not go beyond that any more than it did more than raise an outcry when the conquest of Algeria was undertaken in 1830.

Italy. It matters just as little to her whether the Algerian frontier on the Mediterranean be the River Ajerad or is moved 30 kilom. more westward to the Muluya: the Italians might, perhaps, view with disfavour anything that might be an aggrandisement of a neighbouring and rival European nation, but it is certain that they would not make a *casus belli* of it, and as to Spain, it is possible that the French might refrain from this rectification of frontier for some other considerations, but not because we could impede it by force of arms.

As to the opposition on the part of the most interested party, Morocco, that is worthy of notice, the incident of Isly would be repeated, and all would be over.

It is evident, as Don Oso Cortes said, that this rectification would contribute to increase the restriction of which we are already the object, on the part of the French, and our politicians should apply their talents to avoid it.

No. 18.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received February 11.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, February* 9, 1899.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier with inclosure respecting the proposed imposition of certain rates and taxes at that town with the object of increasing the revenue available for sanitary and other improvements.

In reply I am to state that, in view of all the circumstances and having carefully weighed the objections referred to in your letter, the Board are disposed to think that, subject to the conditions specified below, the assent of Her Majesty's Government might be given to the proposals in question. The tax on packages, &c., passing through the Tangier Custom-house, which has been suggested by the "Conseil d'Hygiène" is very light, and will not apparently excite opposition, and, in addition it seems in common with the other proposals alluded to by Sir A. Nicolson, to be favourably regarded by the Representatives of all the foreign Powers in Morocco. Moreover, it is proposed to couple its imposition with that of new taxation of a more direct character, *e.g.*, the rates on hotels, shops, and various trades. It does not stand alone.

At the same time, the Board desire me to say that they fully concur in the suggestion contained in your letter that if the proposed taxes are sanctioned it should be made clear that Her Majesty's Government will not be prepared to consent to any increase of the custom-house charge in the future. They would further suggest that it should be stipulated that there should be some guarantee that the taxes sanctioned are exclusively devoted to sanitary improvements, and that this guarantee might take the form of the publication by the "Conseil d'Hygiène" (who, it is assumed, will have the control of the funds) of accounts showing the application of the revenue derived from the taxes.

It is, of course, understood, that in no case will the consent of Her Majesty's Government be given to these proposed taxes unless the Moorish and other Governments agree to their national being equally subjected thereto.

The inclosures in your letter are returned herewith in accordance with your request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

No. 19.

Foreign Office to Mr. W. Tallach.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1899.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 30th November last, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported that a Commission of the leading Moorish officials has inspected the prison at that port, and has ordered the prison to be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed, new matting to be supplied, and an extra allowance of food to be given to each prisoner.

The British Vice-Consul at Tetuan has also reported to Sir A. Nicolson that orders have been received from the Moorish Court for the prison there to be whitewashed and the sanitary arrangements to be put into proper order.

Care is to be taken that the prisoners should receive a sufficient allowance of food, and that clothing should be supplied to those who are in need of it.

Lord Salisbury thinks it may be of interest to the Howard Association to receive this information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 20.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 3, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137, of the 11th October last, I have the honour to report that the final instalments of the indemnities claimed by the Italian and Portuguese Governments on account of the piratical attacks on their vessels and sailors by the Bocoyan tribe have been paid. Owing to the measures recently taken by the Moorish Government for the punishment of the Bocoyans it is to be hoped that piracy in Moorish waters has now been definitively suppressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 21.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 6, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170 of the 14th December last, I have the honour to report that the settlement of the Nizab claims makes no progress, and the negotiations at Casablanca with the Governor have led to no results.

The Diplomatic Body was given to understand that the Governor of Casablanca had been authorized to examine the claims with the several Consuls interested, and arrive at a fair and just settlement. It was found, however, that the Governor was proposing different methods of settlement to each Consul; some fairly acceptable and others inadmissible. As it is essential that there should be community of action in this matter, the Diplomatic Body instructed the several Consuls to write identic notes to the Governor, and request him to inform them definitely what proposals he was authorized to make. The reply of the Governor was vague and unsatisfactory. He stated that he was acting merely as the agent of the Governor of Nizab, and he evaded replying to the specific questions which had been sent to him.

In the circumstances it will be necessary for the Diplomatic Body to address the Grand Vizier on the subject, and obtain some definite proposals for the settlement of those claims which are found to be valid and reasonable. I may mention that the proposals made by the Governor for the settlement of British claims, namely, payment of 75 per cent. of the total amount might have been accepted, but I trust your Lordship will concur in considering that I should not recommend the adoption of an arrangement

which would have separated me from my colleagues, who in most cases had not received such favourable offers. As we have treated the question collectively from the commencement, I venture to think that we should continue to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 7, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I requested Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida to report to me what measures had been taken by the Moorish Government to ameliorate the condition of the prisons within his Consular district, and I beg leave to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from him on the subject.

Although the collective note addressed by the Diplomatic Body to the Grand Vizier appears to have borne some fruit, there is still much room for improvement, and the condition of the prisoners on Mogador Island seems to be especially deplorable. I propose to communicate to my colleagues the reports which I have received from the several Consulates and Vice-Consulates, and to submit to their consideration whether we should not, while appreciating the measures already taken, urge the Grand Vizier to carry the improvements further than as yet been done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, February* 2, 1899.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 8 of the 10th ultimo, I have to report that the Governor of this town informs me that instructions have been received to cleanse the local prison and to provide better food for the inmates, but no measures to this end have yet been taken. I have endeavoured to persuade his Excellency to carry out the Shereefian orders as soon as possible, and I shall not fail to take an early opportunity for speaking to him again on the subject.

Mr. Vice-Consul Frost reports to me that the Rabat Governor, Oomana, and Nadir, have been directed to personally inspect the prisons, to cause them to be put in a sanitary condition, and such food and clothing to be supplied to the prisoners as might be necessary. The inspection is to be repeated every three months.

Mr. Frost is assured that the above-mentioned orders have been carried out at the various prisons in Rabat, and the condition of the more indigent prisoners has been in consequence greatly ameliorated.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney reports that the Mazagan prison has been cleaned, and that the 109 prisoners from Abda and 24 from Riff receive two loaves of bread daily, but of 55 from Dukala only 11 receive this ration. Clothing is being purchased for the prisoners, but the overcrowding still exists.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports that the Governor, Oomana, and the Amin of the "Miks" have been commanded to inspect the prison, have it cleaned and whitewashed, also to provide the prisoners with food and those men naked with clothes. Further orders were received to enlarge the accommodation at an expenditure of 1,500 dollars, which was the amount of an estimate for the purpose submitted to the Government a long time ago. There are 380 inmates of the Safli prison, which is much overcrowded. In consequence of the above-mentioned orders, 100 loaves are daily distributed to them, a very insufficient supply. Several of the prisoners are naked, and many are exposed to the sun, rain, and cold, there being no room for them in the dungeons.

Mr. Hunot expresses the opinion that, although the Government has given orders to improve the state of affairs, it is utterly impossible that they will be properly carried out without honest supervision is provided.

Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston reports that no new measures have been taken for the amelioration in the condition of the prisons and prisoners in Mogador. He has for a long time been endeavouring to obtain some information about the condition of the large prison on the island. Owing to the strong opposition of the authorities to Europeans even landing there, and the natural reticence of Moorish officials, he is practically without details. However, according to his information, two years ago there were in the prison on the island 1,622 prisoners, to-day there are 1,102, leaving 520 to be accounted for. Not a score have been released; a few have escaped or have been drowned in attempting to escape. The majority have succumbed to exposure, want, and gaol fever.

Some huts built by prisoners were found to afford cover for making holes through the outer wall, and were burnt in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier regarding the presence of the Moorish steamer "Hassanne" at the trial of Major Spilsbury on the 10th April. The Grand Vizier has misunderstood my request that the vessel should be at Gibraltar on the above date, and appears to be under the impression that the trial was to be held in England.

I saw the Deputy of the Sultan this morning on the subject, and he informed me he had noticed the error to which I alluded, and had already written to the Grand Vizier to rectify it. He stated that the "Hassanne" would be ready to go to Gibraltar on the date mentioned.

The Grand Vizier in his note seems to indicate that the expenses of the "Hassanne" should be paid. This question can be left over until after the trial, and as his Excellency has made no specific request, but merely vaguely alludes to the point, I would propose not to raise it or make any observations upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.) 16 *Ramadan*, 1316 (*January* 28, 1899).

WE received your letter, oh intelligent one, informing us that when the "Hassanne" went to Gibraltar at the date you appointed in accordance with your previous request, the Major appealed on a point in connection with the case to the Court of Appeal in England, but that the case cannot be attended to now because of the difficulties you stated, and that it will be heard on the 10th April next (please God), and that on this account you do not desire the presence of the said steamer now, but that the Makhzen can employ her as it wishes until the said date, when you need her attendance. We brought this to the knowledge of our Lord (God assist him), and he took note of it, and commanded me (God exalt him) to answer you that you are not unaware of the difficulties occasioned in carrying out the work with which she is charged by reason of the constant goings and comings in this case, as indicated by you and in conformity with your promise to attend thoroughly to the rights of the Makhzen (God exalt it) in this case. As also the time lost in those goings and comings and the expenses incurred over and above the expenses of which you have already been informed, in order that you may be aware of all we have pointed out. In any case, as it was necessary to send the steamer to England at the date you stated, instructions have been sent to the Deputy Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres in accordance therewith to dispatch her at the date stated (please God).

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 22*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 28th April, 1896, I have the honour to report that at length a suitable site for a Christian cemetery at Morocco city has been selected, and has been handed over to the Scotch missionaries resident in that capital.

The delay in fulfilling the engagement, referred to in my above-mentioned despatch, to grant a cemetery site has been very considerable and has entailed a somewhat lengthy correspondence. All difficulties have now been finally removed, and the missionaries express themselves satisfied with the locality which has been allotted to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 13, 1899.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports—on what he states is trustworthy authority—that the tranquillity which has existed recently in Tafilet has again been seriously disturbed, and several lives lost in a collision between the adherents of the Viceroy and the factions which are opposed to his rule. When the messenger left Tafilet at the end of last month all business had been suspended, and a renewal of hostilities was daily expected. The malcontents had received reinforcements from the tribes to the north of Tafilet, and they had also been encouraged to resume the offensive by the delay which was occurring in the arrival of the forces which the Moorish Government had dispatched to the assistance of the Viceroy. These troops had halted in their march to await further information as to the situation of affairs in Tafilet, but it is probable that when they appear on the scene the disturbances will be quelled, unless they assume larger dimensions than has hitherto been the case.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 15, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting of the Diplomatic Body was held yesterday to discuss what steps should be taken to hasten the settlement of the long-outstanding claims of foreign merchants on account of the pillage of the Kasbah of M'zab in 1896. As the negotiations which had been conducted by the Consular Body at Dar-al-Baida with the Governor of that town had led to no result, it was decided to address a collective note to the Grand Vizier, of which I beg leave to transmit a copy, requesting his Excellency to effect a settlement of the claims without further delay.

There was a general consensus of opinion among my colleagues that if the Moorish Government offered to compromise the claims by an offer of the immediate payment of 75 per cent., there was no objection to accepting such an arrangement, but it was thought that such an offer should come from the Grand Vizier, and not be suggested by the foreign Representatives.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Collective Note addressed to the Grand Vizier.

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

NOUS avons été informé par nos Consuls respectifs à Casablanca que leurs pourparlers avec le Gouverneur de ce port au sujet des indemnités dues à nos ressortissants à la suite du pillage de la Kasbah de M'zab, n'ont abouti qu'à convaincre nos Agents de l'insuffisance des instructions et des pouvoirs du dit fonctionnaire pour terminer la question d'une manière définitive et satisfaisante.

Les Soussignés se voient donc contraints de rappeler au Maghzen que la complaisance que depuis si longtemps ils ont apportée à la solution de cette affaire, en accordant au Gouvernement Shériffien les délais ainsi que les diverses procédures qu'il a sollicités ne saurait se prolonger sans causer de très graves préjudices à nos ressortissants, qui exigeraient une nouvelle et plus considérable demande d'indemnité de notre part; et par suite, et dans l'intérêt même du Gouvernement du Sultan, nous

te prions de donner des ordres précis et immédiats à lui que les sommes réclamées par nous en temps et lieu et de ce chef, en faveur de nos ressortissants, leur soient versées d'une fois sans atermoiements ni d'autres délais dont toute la nouvelle responsabilité peserait alors sur le Maghzen.

Et la paix, &c.

No. 26.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1899.

I HAVE been in communication with the Board of Trade respecting the Schedule of Taxes inclosed in your despatch No. 2 of the 3rd ultimo, which the Conseil d'Hygiène at Tangier have proposed for the purpose of increasing the funds available for sanitary and other improvements in that town.

In view of all the circumstances mentioned in your despatch, Her Majesty's Government are prepared to consent, upon certain conditions, to the imposition of the proposed taxes on British subjects.

The taxes on packages passing through the Customs might develop at some future time into a serious increase of import and export duties; and it would, therefore, be advisable for you to endeavour to obtain the assent of your colleagues to a modification of the draft scheme inclosed in your despatch above referred to, substituting in "Projet No. 1: Colis," the words "packages stored in the Customs warehouses," for the phrase "par colis passant par la Douane."

This modification would remove all doubt as to the character of the tax, and would clearly indicate that it is merely an increase in the small fee which, I understand, is already paid for storage facilities.

You should, moreover, state that in the event of the proposed taxes being sanctioned, Her Majesty's Government will not be prepared to consent in the future to any further increase in the Custom-house charge.

It should also be stipulated that there should be some guarantee that the taxes sanctioned are exclusively devoted to sanitary improvements, and this guarantee might take the form of the publication by the Conseil d'Hygiène—who, it is assumed, will have the control of the funds—of accounts showing the application of the revenue derived from the taxes.

It is hardly necessary to add that Her Majesty's Government consent to these taxes being levied on British subjects only on the distinct understanding that the Moorish and other foreign Governments agree to their nationals being equally subjected thereto.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15 of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of a Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida respecting the measures taken by the Moorish Government to ameliorate the condition of the prisons within his Consular district.

I approve your proposal to communicate to your colleagues the reports received by you from the several Consulates and Vice-Consulates on the subject, and to submit for their consideration the question whether the Grand Vizier should not be urged to carry the improvements in the prisons further than has as yet been done.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 28.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 14 of the 6th instant, in which you report that the negotiations with the Governor of Casablanca respecting the M'Zab claims have led to no results, and that it will be necessary for the Diplomatic Body to address the Grand Vizier in order to obtain some definite proposals for the settlement of such claims as are found to be valid and reasonable. I concur in the views expressed in your despatch, that as the Diplomatic Representatives at Tangier have from the commencement treated the question of the M'Zab claims collectively, they should continue to do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 24, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16 of the 11th instant, and learn with satisfaction that the Moorish authorities have at length granted a suitable site for a Christian cemetery at Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 18, 1899.

THE Spanish Minister told me this morning that, having experienced the great inconvenience of possessing no unofficial Agent at the Moorish Court, he had some time back written to the Grand Vizier requesting him to consider a Spanish merchant, resident at Mogador, but who went frequently to Morocco city, as an authorized channel of unofficial communication between the Legation and the Moorish Government. Formerly these duties were performed by a Spanish military doctor, Dr. Cortes, but the latter had some months' ago been appointed to Tangier to superintend the Spanish hospital.

On his return from Paris, M. de Ojeda had found a note from the Grand Vizier, in reply to his communication, couched in what he could only characterize as impertinent terms, and in which his Excellency declined to entertain the proposal made by my Spanish colleague. The Grand Vizier said that he saw no necessity of any agent, official or otherwise, at the Shereefian Court, as the Sultan's deputy at Tangier was fully authorized to transmit any communications which the Spanish Legation might desire to make.

M. de Ojeda has now addressed a further note to the Grand Vizier explaining that the method of conducting business is at present so unsatisfactory and so dilatory that he considered it desirable to have some trustworthy person at the capital.

If his Excellency did not wish to receive an unofficial Agent, M. de Ojeda had stated that he was compelled, in these circumstances, to offer two alternatives. Either the Spanish Government would appoint a Spanish Consul at Morocco city, or he would himself proceed to the capital and establish himself there with a portion of the Legation staff permanently. Should the Grand Vizier elect the latter alternative, he would be grateful if a suitable place of residence were prepared for the Mission.

Neither of these alternatives would be pleasing to the Grand Vizier; and the second would, doubtless, be exceedingly inconvenient to M. de Ojeda. Presumably the original proposal of M. de Ojeda will eventually be accepted, though he appeared to have some doubts on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 31.

Mr. H. Grey to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 27.)

5, Avenue Mansions, Clapham Common, London, February 25, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE been approached by a firm of Manchester merchants with a view to going out to Arksis on their behalf to open up trade. The Sultan of Morocco is reported to have given orders for the opening of a port there and the establishment of a Custom-house, and the firm in question are desirous of being early in the field.

Before giving any definite answer, however, I am desirous of knowing whether Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to afford me ample protection in the event of my going to Sûs, and to obtain the co-operation of the Sultan of Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. GREY.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 19 of the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a collective note which the Diplomatic Body at Tangier have addressed to the Grand Vizier requesting his Excellency to effect a settlement of the M'zab claims.

I approve your having joined with your colleagues in making this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 17 of the 11th instant relating to the presence of the Moorish steamer "Hassanee" at Gibraltar on the occasion of the approaching trial of Major Spilsbury at that place, and I concur in your proposal not to raise at the present moment the question of the incidence of the expenses which will be incurred in connection with the visit of this vessel.

I presume that you have already informed the Attorney-General of Gibraltar that the "Hassanee" will be permitted by the Moorish authorities to attend the trial.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 34.

Messrs. Peacock and Goddard to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 1.)

Sir, 3, *South Square, Gray's Inn, London, February* 22, 1899.

A CLIENT of ours is a large shareholder in a Company claiming interest under an alleged Treaty with certain Chiefs at Sûs. The Treaty refers to 150,000 square miles of territory, which we now understand is under the rule of the Emperor of Morocco, and we shall be glad to know if you can give us any information as to the alleged Treaty.

We shall also feel obliged if you will give us permission to peruse the Consular Reports, and any other books in your library relating to the Sûs territory and to the alleged Treaty.

We are, &c.
(Signed) PEACOCK AND GODDARD.

No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 23, 1899.

THE relatives of the Moorish guard, who has been in prison for six years for having killed a British subject, Juan Trinidad, have of late been applying to me indirectly to permit the man to be released.

A considerable correspondence with your Lordship's Office occurred at the time of the affair, and eventually an indemnity of 5,000 dollars was paid to the family of the deceased, and the guard who fired the fatal shot detained in prison until the British authorities consented to his release.

The details of the case were so fully reported that I need not now recapitulate them; and I would only wish to submit to your Lordship that, in view of all the circumstances of the affair, an imprisonment for six years appears to meet the requirements of justice. I should be glad, with your Lordship's approval, to be able to inform the Moorish authorities that Her Majesty's Government have now no objection to the man being set at liberty.

Mr. Eliot in his despatch No. 15 of the 23rd January, 1893 referred to the question of the length of his detention, but I can find no expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 24, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 164 of the 1st December, 1898, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note from the Grand Vizier, relative to matters connected with the "Tourmaline" expedition to the Sûs district, and also regarding the conduct of Kaïd Gilooly in his treatment of the prisoners whom he captured.

With respect to the latter point the note of the Grand Vizier is not so satisfactory as could be wished. It is true that he states that the Kaïd has been censured, but he then proceeds to give the explanations of that officer, which he apparently considers satisfactory and conclusive. The Kaïd asserts that he gave the prisoners what food was obtainable, better, he suggests, than they had enjoyed when they were sojourning, of their own free will, with the Sûs natives; and he excuses himself, and is supported in this by the Grand Vizier, for having placed irons on the prisoners on the ground that such a measure was a necessary precaution. The overcrowding, the extreme hardships, and the insults to which the prisoners were subjected, are passed over in silence.

The diary to which reference is made was one kept by M. Beierle, the German subject, written in French, which was taken from him at the time of his capture, and which was, I am informed, translated into Arabic at the Shereefian Court.

It is an extremely difficult matter in any case to obtain from the Moorish Government an explicit official disavowal or disapproval of the proceedings of any of their officials; and this difficulty is increased tenfold when the Government considers itself to be the aggrieved party, and that its officials had to meet an unprecedented situation which, but for prompt measures, might have developed into an exceedingly grave one.

Nevertheless, I venture to submit that it is desirable to explain to the Grand Vizier that no circumstances can justify unnecessarily harsh treatment towards prisoners; and I beg leave to transmit the draft of a communication, which, with your Lordship's concurrence, I would propose to address to his Excellency.

The Moorish Government evidently still considers that the "Tourmaline" affair should not be closed with the termination of legal proceedings against those

concerned in the expedition; but as the functionary, who was originally empowered to discuss matters with me, is stated to be returning to Tangier, it may be as well to defer entering on all the points raised in the note of the Grand Vizier to me until it is seen what instructions the above-mentioned official may bring with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

WE have received your answer to our reply of the 10th Kaada relative to the request made by the Makhzen for indemnities and expenses caused by the action of the English Company, which sent the English steamer last year to the district of Arksis accompanied by its agent, the Major, and other British subjects, and you state that all who had taken part in this affair have been prosecuted according to English law, and that they have been sufficiently punished, and that the leader had been obliged to retire from the British army, and that he had been arrested in England and sent to Gibraltar, and that he will be prosecuted before the legal Tribunal at Gibraltar, and that by this your exalted Government had done everything possible to attain justice; and that in the matter of indemnities you regret that you are obliged to state that you are unable to meet the wishes of the Makhzen in this respect, as there are no legal means, according to your law, which would allow you to compel those who participated in this attempt to pay them, and because your respected Government cannot spend public monies save what is voted by the representatives of the public, and that it is unable to apply to Parliament to vote this out of the public funds. And you ask that an assurance be given that the Kaïd Gilooly will be censured for his treatment of some of the captured Englishmen, of which you have heard, by confining them with irons and furnishing them with insufficient food and imprisoning them in tents for three weeks. We brought this to the knowledge of His Majesty and he took note of it, and after understanding that which you indicated in your reply, ordered me to reply to you that if you refer to our previous letter and carefully consider it, without doubt you will see by it that the Makhzen does not ask its proper compensation in this affair from those who are not concerned it it (*i.e.*, the Government), as no mortal is held responsible for the crime of others, but it asks it of your Government—the exalted—so that it compel those who committed the offence and the Company which induced them to commit it, and financed them to pay those losses which were estimated in the letter referred to, and which have been increased by the expenses of settling that district and quieting the disturbed state existing there by reason of what occurred there, and what the corrupt people obtained possession of (meaning the rifles, &c.). Without doubt the Company who did this is able to pay these expenses caused by it, and the money it had prepared for this perilous affair, such as has never been heard of from any other nation, will suffice to pay the expenses.

The Makhzen further did not ask that the matter should be taken into Court, and did not require, therefore, any reply as to the conclusion of the trial and the result of it. What happened was that you informed us of it, and asked that the witnesses and evidence should be sent. This is a matter between your Government and those concerned, and the affair was outside the province of the Shereefian Government who had only to deal with your respected Government and no one else.

The Makhzen consented to produce the evidence and witnesses you asked for, although at great trouble, and the impossibility of employing the Shereefian steamer and keeping her from the work for which she is intended, and the expense of her maintenance on work other than her own.

Had the Makhzen intended to go to law about this grave affair, and had agreed to do so, it would have appointed its lawyer for that purpose and produced its evidence. Besides, it is not right to treat the case as a contentious legal

question when your exalted Government had promised to obtain justice from those who caused this disturbance.

The Government of Great Britain is known only for its strict uprightness and justice; therefore, we informed you in the reply referred to, to treat with the person appointed on behalf of the Makhzen—God exalt it—for that purpose. Conferences and correspondence have passed between you and him on this case until it appears that time and delay is necessary for the conclusion of the work connected therewith.

Then the person charged to attend to it came on business to the Shereefian Court, and he will return to conclude conferring about it when you are ready to conclude the affair. As to the treatment of those captured at Arksis at the hands of Kaïd Gilooly, all that is proved is that when he was written to by the Makhzen, censuring him for the hunger and want of clothes that may have overtaken them, it was shown that he had never left them hungry, nor was any one of them without clothes.

Their food was the food of the natives, and they were not exceptionally treated with food inferior to that. Besides, in their diary recording what took place when they were at Arksis with the natives from the time they landed from the steamer until the said Kaïd Gilooly joined them, they described the food they were given and the great fear and terror of the Arabs they were in, and they did not obtain from them their accustomed food and drink, and all this was in consequence of what they did of their own free will.

Now if this is compared with the food given them by Kaïd Gilooly, it will be seen that the said Kaïd did not give them inferior food to that, and that when he joined them they no longer had that fear they were then in. Therefore, when this is proved, he deserves great thanks, as he had no object in harming or ill-treating them. As to his placing irons during the few days, this is the ordinary custom of the Makhzen to all criminals from fear of their escaping, more so, as at that that time he was in a waste desert, not in a place of buildings nor well-peopled. Thus he excuses himself when he was written to that if he had placed upon them any irons they would be removed.

If you consider, oh, intelligent one, what we have stated, you will see the position of this Kaïd and the truth as to the treatment of those mentioned, and that the Makhzen ceases not in its charge to the persons appointed to conclude attending to this matter with you, according to what is known of the equity and justice of the Government of Great Britain, the exalted.

May you cease not, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Finished 28th Ramadan, 1316 (9th February, 1899).

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Draft of proposed Note from Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, February* , 1899.

I HAVE received and read with attention the note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on 28th Ramadan, 1316 (9th February, 1899), in which you enter fully into various matters connected with the incident at Arksis in January of last year; and as you mention that Ben Saïd will return to Tangier to discuss these matters personally with me it may be as well that I should await his arrival before writing to you further on the subject. I am glad to note, oh friend, that Kaïd Gilooly was censured for the ill-treatment which he meted out to the helpless prisoners whom he captured: but I must state to you that I am unable to agree with your view that, after the explanations he has given, he deserves thanks rather than reproof.

In wild and waste places, doubtless, it would not be just to criticize closely the quantity or quality of the food supplied to wayfarers; and I should not, nor would my Government, have thought it necessary to make inevitable hardships and discomforts subjects of complaint. I cannot, however, admit that it was necessary to submit the prisoners to the indignity of irons on their necks and feet; I ask you, oh intelligent one, how it would have been possible for men ignorant of the language

and of the country unprovided with horses or mules and surrounded by mounted armed guards to have escaped.

Your Excellency adds that it is the custom of the Makhzen to put all criminals in irons—what is customary is not necessarily praiseworthy or justifiable; and in any case I would observe that though the British subjects were for the time in the power they were never under the jurisdiction of Kaïd Gilooly; and the practice which he might adopt towards Moorish criminals should not be applied to foreign subjects who had not even yet been tried for the offences alleged against them.

Again, the prisoners complained bitterly of the overcrowding of their resting-places, of the uncleanly condition in which they were forcibly kept, and of the daily insults to which they were exposed; these were not inevitable hardships, but severities which could and should have been avoided and forbidden. I may have misinterpreted the sense of the communication which you addressed to me and of the remarks which, oh friend, you made as to the conduct of Kaïd Gilooly, but it would be a cause of sincere regret and disappointment to me if you wished me to understand that you condoned the ill-treatment inflicted on helpless prisoners who, whatever may have been their offence, should be punished by their own competent authorities and not subjected to the arbitrary and harsh acts of a provincial official. I have always maintained that your Excellency and the Moorish Government desired that all good treatment should be accorded to the prisoners so long as they remained in the hands of the Moorish authorities, and a more explicit disapproval than that with which your Excellency has favoured me of the conduct of Kaïd Gilooly would enable me to emphasize with greater cogency the humane feelings with which I am sure you were animated in regard to the captives.

May you rest, &c.

No. 37.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 66.)

Berlin, March 1, 1899.

My Lord,

HERR VON BÜLOW, the Imperial Secretary of State, took occasion yesterday, in the course of the discussion on the Foreign Office Estimates in the Budget Commission of the Reichstag, to state that a list of German claims had been strongly brought before the Government of Morocco, the German Representative at Tangier having journeyed to Marakesh for that purpose. The Sultan had given orders that the German claims should be liquidated; but as often happens in like countries, only a part of the promises given had been fulfilled.

But, continued Herr von Bülow, full payment will be pressed for, and if the Moorish Government delays much longer to satisfy well-founded German claims, the latter can be further supported by the appearance in Moorish waters of German ships of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 38.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)

Foreign Office, March 7, 1899.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT a copy of a letter from Mr. H. M. Grey,* who was implicated in the "Tourmaline" expedition, asking whether Her Majesty's Government would afford him protection in the event of his proceeding to Arksis for trading purposes.

I am not disposed to regard this application in a favourable light, but before returning a definite reply should be glad to have any observations which you may have to offer on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 31.

No. 39.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. M. Grey.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 7, 1899.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, and to state that the question raised therein will receive consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 40.

Messrs. Peacock and Goddard to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 10.)

Sir,

3, *South Square, Gray's Inn, London, March* 9, 1899.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

Referring to our letter of the 22nd ultimo, we have obtained a print of the Consular Reports of the years 1894 to 1897 from the Queen's printers, and we shall be glad to know whether you can give our clients any further information with reference to the alleged Treaty with the tribes of Sûs, Morocco.

We understand that some correspondence took place between you, Major Spilsbury, and this Company, and should be glad to be supplied with copies thereof, for which we will, of course, pay.

We inclose stamped envelope for reply.

We are, &c.
(Signed) PEACOCK AND GODDARD.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 23.)

Tangier, March 1, 1899.

My Lord,

THE Spanish Minister inquired of me yesterday whether it was true that a military officer had been appointed Vice-Consul at Algeciras, and whether I had any information as to the reason of this appointment, which had caused some comment in his country.

I told M. de Ojeda that the gentleman who had been for the last few years Vice-Consul at Dar-el-Beida had been appointed to Algeciras, and that he had been formerly in the army, but had retired from it some years ago. The post was quite outside of my province, and I had no information as to the reason for the appointment, though it seemed very natural that a Consular officer should be named to Algeciras, as apart from commercial affairs, there were, I imagined, many small questions between the two neighbouring places of Algeciras and Gibraltar, which would, as in the case of the Spanish Consul at Gibraltar, render the presence of a Consular official desirable.

M. de Ojeda said that he perfectly understood that, but an impression existed abroad that there was some special significance in the appointment. I told him I was unaware of any.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 1, 1899.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez sends the following report as to certain events which have recently occurred in the neighbourhood of Figuig.

Several months ago the Algerian tribe of Beni Amûr, to the number of 250 to 400 souls, passed over into the region south-east of Figuig, which is governed by Sidi Allal ben Kador, who is a grandson of the famous Algerian Chieftain, the late Abdelkader, and also cousin of Ben Amama, the well-known Skeikh, who has frequently given much trouble both to the French authorities and to the Moorish Government.

The Beni Amûr stated that they had been grievously oppressed by the French authorities, and implored the protection of Sidi Allal. The latter accorded them the protection they desired, and distributed them among several of his villages.

The advent of these new-comers was not welcomed by the inhabitants, and they subsequently informed Sidi Allal that the Algerians were not refugees but spies. Sidi Allal caused, in consequence, the Algerians to be closely watched, and eventually intercepted a treasonable letter from one of the Algerian Sheikhs to some French authority. Sidi Allal thereupon assembled the Headmen of the Beni Amûr, and they declared that the letter was a forgery, but Sidi Allal declined to credit their assertions, and caused all their property to be seized. The Beni Amûr then took refuge with Bu Amama, who supported their cause, and called upon his cousin, Sidi Allal, to restore the property. The latest news from that region is dated the 8th February, and, as Sidi Allal declined to comply with the requests of Bu Amama, fighting between the two Chiefs was considered imminent.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul further reports that inter-tribal fighting was occurring in the districts east of Fez, up to the frontier town of Oojdat, and also in districts to the south of that place. All these reports indicate a very unsettled condition of affairs.

The last news from Tafilet was dated the 10th February, from which it would appear that intermittent fighting was continuing between the rival factions there. The Sultan's forces had not then arrived, and it was reported that many desertions had taken place from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 126 of the 9th September, 1898, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke as to the measures taken by the French authorities in regard to the Bocoyan tribesmen who were enlisted in the Algerian army last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Tetuan, March* 3, 1899.

WITH reference to the French and Bocoyans I have the honour to report that I hear that the French have now discharged all the enlisted Riffians and that only Ci Daddi and two other men remain at Oran.

I hear that eight of the discharged men have arrived here viâ Tangier, and they tell my informant that on their discharge their uniforms or new clothes were taken from them, and that no money was given them. Of these eight men seven are Bocoyans and one Beni Ouriaghel.

The greater part of the discharged men, I understand, have joined their families or tribes-people on the Algerian frontier at Ghrarwana and another place.

I am further informed that the French Government has ceased to supply the Bocoyan people on the Algerian frontier with rations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 44.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 1st instant, I hear privately from the Court that the Grand Vizier admits that the troubles in the Tafilelt district are becoming serious, but states that the Government has taken strong measures to terminate the disturbances.

I am informed, from the same source, that the Shereefian forces under El Amrani have received orders to proceed at once to Tafilelt, but that it is feared that owing to desertions and other causes the expedition is too weak to cope successfully with any serious opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1899.

I HEAR privately from the Court that recently several Frenchmen, supposed to be deserters from the Algerian army, arrived at Morocco city, and announced their conversion to Islam. They have become Moorish subjects, and are allowed to enter the Mosques, and to mix freely with the people, receiving also daily rations from the Government. They are on intimate terms with the Algerian officers attached to the French Military Mission, which would seem to contradict the suppostion that they are deserters. They have not, so far as I have learnt, been received by any prominent Moorish official, but their arrival in Morocco city is curious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1899.

THE French Minister informed me to-day that he had an unpleasant question with the Moorish Government, which might possibly necessitate the adoption of strong measures, a course to which he was much opposed.

It appears that the Cadi of Rabat, who, M. de Moubel said, is hostile to Europeans and very fanatical, caused an Algerian Sub-Lieutenant to be arrested on account of some differences which the latter had with his Moorish servant. The detention lasted but an hour or two, but the Cadi, according to M. de Moubel, effected his object, which was to show his indifference towards subjects of European Powers.

M. de Moubel has written to the Grand Vizier demanding that the Cadi should publicly apologize for his action, and has announced to his Excellency that an official from the French Legation will proceed to Rabat to receive these excuses so soon as the

Grand Vizier has made the necessary arrangements. M. de Moubel told me that he had been disinclined to demand the recall of the Cadi, which he knew would be difficult to obtain without the employment of very strong measures, but he was of opinion that the Grand Vizier, in order to avoid the humiliation entailed by a public apology, would, as if on his own initiative, quietly remove the Cadi and then request the abandonment of any further action as unnecessary in the circumstances.

M. de Moubel said he would be satisfied with such a solution, but if his expectations as to the probable action of the Grand Vizier were not realized, he foresaw the possibility of being compelled to emphasize his demands by the presence of a ship of war. He added that the course he was taking had been approved of by his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 47.

Mr. J. Byrne to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 13.)

95, *High Holborn, London, March* 11, 1899.

Sir,

I BEG leave to inclose you herewith copy of correspondence which I have had with Mr. Cunninghame Graham, also a letter from the Right Honourable J. Chamberlain.

I would be glad to know whether the proposed Trading Company would meet with the sanction of the Foreign Office.

It was originally intended to open a port on the coast line claimed by the Spanish, but we think that the Moorish Government would not prevent us trading at Cape Juby, provided we had the permission of the English Government to go and trade there. Will you kindly inform me what I have to do to obtain such permission.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.
(Signed) J. BYRNE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Mr. Chamberlain to Mr. C. Graham.

40, *Prince's Gardens, London,*
March 10, 1899.

Dear Mr. Cunninghame Graham,

I AM much obliged by your note and inclosure. I take a great interest in all that bears on the development of Africa, but there is no doubt whatever that this particular question is a matter entirely for the Foreign Office, and I have no official concern with it.

I hope it is true, as stated in Mr. Byrne's letter, that the Foreign Office will not put any difficulty in your way.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Adrar (North-West Africa) Concessions Corporation to Mr. C. Graham.

95, *High Holborn, London, March* 8, 1899.

Dear Sir,

WITH reference to our conversation *re* your exploring the country of Adrar, North-West Africa to the south of Morocco, in connection with our proposed Company which we are forming for the purpose of trading and mining in Adrar:

We would be glad to know whether you think that our English Company could secure sanction of our Government for an undertaking of this kind.

As it is, we understand that the Foreign Office would be quite ready to give its consent to our enterprise, provided we gave an undertaking that the officers of our expedition should not have recourse to "armed demonstrations" or the importation of arms at all, which undertaking we are prepared to give.

It is our object to start a Trading Company somewhere on the coast between Cape

Bojador and Cape Blanco, but as you are aware, the Spanish Government lays claim to this coast line.

The Spanish are not anxious to allow the Britishers to trade in Adrar. The Chief of the latter country is subsidized by the French of Senegal, and ultimately the French will try to own Adrar and the Canary Islands. They are now making a way quietly between Senegal and Algeria. Adrar blocks the way, and it is to our interest to secure Adrar's Chief in favour of a British Trading Company.

The Chiefs have sent their representative (Mohammed El Sabbar) to this country or this purpose.

If you could assist us in getting some sanction from the Foreign Office to enable us to go to Cape Juby, we would rather pay the dues there to the Moorish Government than to the Spanish.

Possibly the Foreign Office would assist us, as we are not going on a fillibustering expedition like the "Tourmaline." We mean legitimate trade, and now we have a good chance to get in touch with the natives and cut out the French and Spanish to the benefit of British trade.

Trusting to hear from you and soliciting your valuable aid in the matter, yours truly,

(Signed) J. BYRNE.

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 31.)

Tangier, March 8, 1899.

My Lord,

DURING a conversation with the German Minister this morning, I mentioned that I had noticed that Herr von Bülow, in a recent speech at Berlin, had spoken of the possibility of a visit of some German men-of-war to Morocco to enforce the settlement of some German claims, and I asked if there were a likelihood that such a necessity would arise.

Baron Schenck informed me that he had come to an arrangement with a Representative of the Moorish Government here, which he considered was quite satisfactory, and that he did not anticipate there would be any necessity for the arrival of ships of war. The arrangement had been sent to Morocco city for ratification by the Grand Vizier, and he had reason to believe that his Excellency would agree to the proposed settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 49.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Foreign Office, March 15, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing translation of a note from the Grand Vizier relative to matters connected with the "Tourmaline" expedition to the Sûs district, and respecting the conduct of Kaïd Gilooly towards his captives.

I approve the terms of the note which you propose to address to His Highness on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 50.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 16, 1899.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the terms of the Treaty of 1856, and the confinement for 100 days of the subjects of Her Majesty who were recently tried upon a charge of introducing arms and ammunition into Morocco, in connection with the "Tourmaline," before they were handed over to the British authorities at Tangier, any and what punishment has been meted out to Kaïd Gilooly and the other subjects of the Sultan who were responsible for the acts in question:

Whether he is aware that the application of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for the custody of the prisoners was refused, and the prisoners lodged in a house in Mogador under a guard of Moorish soldiers:

Whether he is aware that, in sentencing the prisoners at Tangier, Chief Justice Gatty said: "I do not take into consideration the hardships you have suffered at the hands of the Moors, as they may form the basis of a claim for compensation against the Moorish Government":

And whether Her Majesty's Government, having regard to this judicial expression, have taken or mean to take any steps to obtain compensation from the Sultan.

Answer.

Her Majesty's Government have had all the circumstances of this case before them, and, having given them careful consideration, have arrived at the conclusion that those persons who landed arms in the Sûs country from the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" were implicated in a deliberate attempt to raise a rebellion against the Sultan of Morocco.

In these circumstances, they have decided to abstain from demanding pecuniary compensation from the Moorish Government on their behalf.

The question of the action taken by Kaïd Gilooly in this matter is still under discussion between Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier and the Moorish Government.

No. 51.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 28.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1899.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 21 of the 23rd ultimo, in which you request permission to inform the Moorish authorities that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to the release of the Moorish guard who has been for six years in prison for having killed Juan Trinidad, a British subject.

There is no doubt that if the guard had been amenable to the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consular Court, he would have received a much heavier sentence than one of six years' imprisonment in the first instance, for in such a case judgment of death would have been recorded against him, which judgment would subsequently have been, by order of the Secretary of State, practically converted into twenty years' penal servitude.

In view of these considerations, and in the absence of any reasons of policy which strongly demand the man's release, it would be well that you should take no action in the matter for the present, or, at all events, until the case shall be brought officially to your notice by the Moorish authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 23 of the 1st instant, reporting a conversation which you have had with the Spanish Minister relating to the appointment of a military officer to be British Vice-Consul at Algeciras, and I approve the language held by you on that occasion, as recorded in your despatch above referred to.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 53.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1899.

I TRANSMIT copy of a letter from Mr. Byrne,* stating that the Adrar (North-west Africa) Concessions Corporation, Limited, are desirous to open up trading and mining operations in Adrar, lying between Capes Bogador and Blanco, and inquiring whether such a project would meet with the sanction of this Department.

The applicant adds that it was originally intended to open a port on the coast-line claimed by Spain, but that the promoters of the Company think that the Moorish Government will not prevent it trading at Cape Juby, provided that they had the permission of Her Majesty's Government to do so.

I have caused Mr. Byrne's letter to be acknowledged, but should wish to be placed in possession of your views on the subject before returning a final answer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 54.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. Byrne.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1899.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inquiring whether the intention of the Adrar Concessions Corporation, Limited, to open up trading and mining operations in Adrar, and in the neighbourhood of Cape Juby, would be sanctioned by this Department.

I am to state, in reply, that this matter will receive consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 55.

Treasury Solicitor to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 25.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, March* 25, 1899.

WITH reference to previous correspondence which has taken place with the Foreign Office on the subject of the legal proceedings taken by the Crown against Major Spilsbury and to Major Spilsbury's appeal to the Privy Council, I have to state, for the information of the Secretary of State, that the appeal was argued before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and the Lord Chancellor, after hearing the arguments, said that their Lordships were all of opinion that Major Spilsbury was entitled to be tried by a jury, and that the reasons that guided their Lordships to that

* No. 47.

conclusion would be given hereafter. The Lord Chancellor further said that a communication should be made to the Colonial Office or to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that effect had always been given to the Judgment of the Privy Council.

The formal Order embodying this Judgment is an Order in Council, and can only be drawn up after the same has been approved by Her Majesty in Council, and I am informed that this cannot be done for a period of about six weeks. I have, therefore, to ask that you will be pleased to move the Secretary of State to take the necessary steps to bring the Judgment of the Privy Council to the judicial notice of the Chief Justice of Gibraltar.

I am informed that the Registrar of the Privy Council is, under the direction of the Lord Chancellor, taking steps to bring the matter before you and also before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so that the trial of Major Spilsbury, which has been fixed for the 10th April, may not be delayed. I inclose a transcript of the shorthand notes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DESART.

No. 56.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1899.

MAJOR SPILSBURY'S appeal.

It has been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that Major Spilsbury is entitled to have his case tried by a jury.

The approval of Her Majesty in Council is necessary before the formal Order, embodying the Judgment, can be drawn up. But there is no objection to the trial taking place, of course with a jury, on 10th April, as previously settled.

No. 57.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1899.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, a copy of a letter from the Solicitor to the Treasury* on the subject of the legal proceedings taken by the Crown against Major Spilsbury and of Major Spilsbury's appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Chief Justice of Gibraltar on his interlocutory application for a trial with a jury.

It will be seen that, on the appeal being argued before the Judicial Committee, their Lordships were unanimously of opinion that Major Spilsbury was entitled to be tried by a jury, and that the reasons that guided them to that conclusion would be given hereafter.

As it appears from the statement of the Lord Chancellor that effect has in similar circumstances always been given to the Judgments of the Privy Council as soon as the result of that Judgment has been announced, and as the actual Order in Council embodying the Judgment in this case cannot be issued for a period of about six weeks, I am to request that you will move Mr. Chamberlain to cause the Chief Justice of Gibraltar to be officially informed of the Judgment as soon as possible, so that the trial may proceed with a jury on the 10th proximo.

I am also to inclose a transcript of the shorthand notes taken at the hearing before the Judicial Committee, and I am to suggest that it may be forwarded to the Chief Justice for his further information forthwith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

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* No. 55.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 11, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd January last, I hear privately from the Court that the Grand Vizier has received several letters from the Headmen in Tuat, all stating that some Frenchmen are in their country making minute inquiries as to the population, water supply, and roads; and that they are also endeavournig to ascertain the feeling of the people towards the Government, and whether they would be willing to accept French protection. The letters further state that the Frenchmen appear desirous of impressing on the natives that they are in no way connected with the French Government, but are merely travellers seeking for information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 13, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 4th instant, it is reported to me from Fez that on the 3rd instant the Sultan's forces under Abdselaw-el-Amrani attacked some villages on the border between Haiy Aua and Riata. The threatened tribesmen, on the day preceding the attack, implored the assistance of the Riata tribe. The latter agreed to come to the assistance of their neighbours, and the Sultan's forces were defeated, being driven back to their camp with the loss of fifteen men and thirty horses killed. The Viceroy of Fez has written to the Court for reinforcements, and has urgently requested some of the neighbouring tribes to co-operate with the Government troops.

I report this incident to your Lordship as the expedition under El Amrani is to operate against the insurgents in the Tafilet district, and was under orders to march immediately to that locality. If it is hampered by defeats and desertions before it proceeds to its destination, it is doubtful if it can be counted upon to render any material assistance in the suppression of the disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1899.

THE local press here deriving its information from statements in some Egyptian journals, recently announced the approaching arrival of a Turkish Mission to the Sultan; and the Grand Vizier inquired of me, through a third person, whether it were true that such a step was contemplated. I replied that I was without any information on the subject.

The Grand Vizier is opposed to the establishment of an Ottoman Legation in Morocco, as he fears that a Representative of the Caliph may injure the prestige and position of the Sultan of this country. His Shereefian Majesty who claims descent from the family of the Prophet, regards, I am told, the Sultan of Turkey as an usurper of the Caliphat; but the actual possessor of the holy places and of the holy relics, and the acknowledged head of a large portion of the Mussulman world would, the Grand Vizier fears, soon exercise, through his Representative, a great influence in Morocco.

I do not know if this would be the case, as it is difficult to foretell what impression would be produced on the public mind by the presence of a Turkish Mission.

Much would depend as to whether it were a permament or special Mission; in the latter case it would be regarded as a complimentary Mission from a powerful Moslem Sovereign, and might in the public eye rather add to, than detract from, the position of the Moorish Sultan.

In any case the Grand Vizier says he is determined not to grant to the Turkish Representative the privilege of according protection to Moorish subjects as is enjoyed by the Powers, signatories of the Madrid Convention, in a limited degree. He considers the exercise of protection would open the door to consequences possibly of greater moment than flow from its practice by Christian nations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 61.

Mr. Hope to Foreign Office.—(Received March 27.)

Whitehall, March 24, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Lord President of the Council to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, having this day heard Counsel on behalf of both parties in the appeal of Albert Gybbon Spilsbury *v.* the Queen, from an Order of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar dated the 5th September, 1898, have agreed humbly to report to Her Majesty, as their opinion, that the said appeal ought to be allowed, and that it is competent to the appellant to demand that he shall be tried by a jury for the offences alleged against him.

As you are doubtless aware, the Report cannot be approved except by an Order of Her Majesty in Council.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. S. HOPE,
Registrar of the Privy Council.

No. 62.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 29.)

Downing Street, March 28, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, transmitting copy of a letter from the Treasury Solicitor respecting the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that Major Spilsbury is entitled to be tried for the offence alleged against him by a jury.

2. In reply, I am to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, copies of a letter from the Council Office notifying the Committee's decision, and of a telegraphic correspondence with the Governor of Gibraltar with reference to the action to be taken by the Chief Justice in consequence.

3. Lord Salisbury will observe that the Governor has been instructed to notify the Chief Justice of the decision, and to inform him that he may proceed with the trial by jury without waiting for the issue of the Order in Council approving their Lordships' Report.

4. These instructions were sent before the receipt of your letter under acknowledgment on the advice of the Attorney-General, but copies of your letter and its inclosures, together with a copy of the letter from the Council Office, have now been transmitted to the Governor of Gibraltar for communication to the Chief Justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Mr. Chamberlain to Governor Sir R. Biddulph.

(Telegraphic.) *Downing Street, March 24, 1899.*

PLEASE inform Chief Justice that Judicial Committee of Privy Council have reversed his decision, and held that Spilsbury can be tried by jury. Attorney-General or prosecuting counsel should apply to Chief Justice to order trial by jury, notwithstanding his previous judgment. Matter is urgent, as the witnesses cannot be kept.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Mr. Hope to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Privy Council Office, Whitehall, March 24, 1899.

I AM directed by the Lord President of the Council to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Governor of Gibraltar, and the Chief Justice of that Colony, that the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, having this day heard counsel on both sides in the appeal of Spilsbury *v.* the Queen from an order of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, dated the 5th September, 1898, have agreed humbly to report to Her Majesty that the appeal of Albert Gybbon Spilsbury ought to be allowed, and to declare that it is competent to the said Albert Gybbon Spilsbury to demand that he shall be tried for the offences alleged against him by a jury.

As you are doubtless aware, the Report cannot be approved except by an Order of Her Majesty in Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. S. HOPE,
Registrar of the Privy Council.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic). [*Undated.*]

REFERRING to your telegram of the 24th March, order will be made on receipt of official record of judgment. In the meantime, Chief Justice has directed juries to be summoned to attend for the 10th April.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

Mr. Chamberlain to Governor Sir R. Biddulph.

(Telegraphic.) *Downing Street, March 25, 1899.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 25th March, owing to absence of the Queen, Order in Council approving Report of Judicial Committee of Privy Council cannot be made for some weeks. Attorney-General advises that Chief Justice, being officially informed through Secretary of State of decision of Judicial Committee, may proceed with trial by jury without waiting for Order in Council.

No. 63.

Sir A. Nicolson o the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 1, 1899.

SPILSBURY case.

The Arabic writer, as weil as one of the Legation staff and one of the Consulate, will be required at the trial; your Lordship will, I presume, sanction my sending them.

The Attorney-General of Gibraltar wishes to have the original letter of Major Spilsbury to the Foreign Office, dated the 4th November, 1897; it might be sent direct to the Attorney-General.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1899.

SPILSBURY case.

I agree to the arrangements proposed in the last paragraph of your telegram No. 3 of to-day.

The letter required by the Attorney-General will be forwarded.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.— (*Received April* 3.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 22, 1899.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 21 of the 7th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from Mr. H. M. Grey relative to opening up trade at the port of Arksis.

As I reported in my despatch No. 131 of the 27th September, 1898, the Moorish Government intimated at one time its intention to open the port of Arksis to trade, but under conditions which could not have been accepted. Since that date no further steps have been taken, and no arrangements have been made for establishing a custom-house there.

Until the port is formally declared open by the Sultan, and the necessary officials for the collection of custom duties have been posted there, it would not be legitimate for any one to endeavour to trade with the Sus through that port.

Should the port be eventually opened, British merchants may rely on receiving early information on the subject; and I presume that any British subject who would then engage in innocent and legitimate trade there would receive the same protection as is enjoyed by his compatriots in the other open ports of this Empire.

I do not quite gather if Mr. Grey wishes to proceed to the Sus preparatory to Arksis being thrown open to trade; but if such be the case, I would point out that the Moorish Government has on more than one occasion requested that no travellers should visit that province, and declines to be responsible for what may happen should its wishes be disregarded. It is permissible to the Moorish Government under Article IV of the General Treaty of 1856 to limit the right of foreign subjects to travel in its territories. The prior consent of the Moorish Government to travel in the Sus would, therefore, be requisite, and I much doubt if such consent would be granted at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 4, 1899.

GLOBE VENTURE case.

It is found by the Attorney-General that the notes of appeal proceedings which he has received do not enable him to decide the exact form of procedure he ought to adopt before the Supreme Court of Gibraltar.

The Attorney-General would like to know whether a charge should be framed as prescribed by Morocco Order in Council, Rule 64, or whether a bill of indictment should be sent up to Grand Jury, or if he should proceed by *ex officio* information.

No preliminary proceedings before Gibraltar Police Magistrate should, he presumes, be taken.

No. 67.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1899.

IN reply to the inquiry contained in your telegram No. 4 of the 4th instant respecting the Spilsbury case, the opinion of our Legal Adviser is that the Attorney-General should proceed by *ex officio* information.

We are, however, consulting the Colonial Office, through whom formal instructions will reach the Attorney-General.

No. 68.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1899.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the trial of Major Spilsbury at Gibraltar, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the consideration of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, the accompanying copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* inquiring on behalf of the Attorney-General of Gibraltar whether the latter should—

1. Frame a charge against Major Spilsbury in the manner prescribed by Rule 64 of the Morocco Order in Council of 1889, or whether he should

2. Send up a bill of indictment to the Grand Jury at the Gibraltar Criminal Sessions, or

3. Should proceed by *ex officio* information.

The Attorney-General presumes that no preliminary proceedings before the Gibraltar Police Magistrate are in any case necessary.

As the trial is believed to be fixed for the 10th April, and time therefore urgently presses, his Lordship has not been able, in the absence of the Law Officers from town, to take, as he would otherwise have done, their opinion on the points raised by the Attorney-General of Gibraltar; but he is advised, by the Legal Adviser to this Department, that the matter appears now to lie altogether outside the scope and operation of the Morocco Order in Council.

This view, moreover, seems to be borne out indirectly by the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, that he is now entitled to be tried by a Judge and jury, whereas under the Morocco Order in Council he could only be tried by a Judge with assessors.

Major Spilsbury was arrested in England under the Fugitive Offenders Act of 1881; he then applied to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in this country for a writ of *habeas corpus*, and a *rule nisi* was granted.

* No. 66.

On the argument of the rule, the Court ordered that the trial should take place at Gibraltar under certain conditions instead of at Tangier, and he was accordingly delivered up at Gibraltar, there to take his trial.

In these circumstances, it is considered that he should be tried under the same procedure as would have been applicable if the original warrant under the Fugitive Offenders' Act had been for his removal to Gibraltar instead of to Tangier.

The criminal procedure of the Colony of Gibraltar should therefore be applied to the case, and it appears that two alternative courses thus present themselves :—

1. Major Spilsbury must be sent before a Grand Jury after a bill of indictment has been preferred against him in the ordinary way ; or

2. The Attorney-General must file an *ex officio* information against him.

Of these two methods of procedure the latter seems in this case preferable, since it is conceivable that a bill of indictment might be thrown out by the Grand Jury, and the whole proceedings would thus at once come to an abortive termination, which Her Majesty's Government might find some difficulty in explaining satisfactorily to the Sultan of Morocco.

If, on the other hand, the Attorney-General proceeds by *ex officio* information, the matter will go straight before the Court without the intervention of a Grand Jury, and a trial before the Petty Jury will in any event be secured.

I am therefore to request that, in the event of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain concurring in this view, telegraphic instructions may be sent to the Attorney-General of Gibraltar to proceed against Major Spilsbury by *ex officio* information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 28, 1899.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 30 of the 22nd instant, transmitting a letter from Mr. Byrne in regard to trading operations with Adrar, and proposing to pass goods through the port of Cape Juby.

The district of Adrar lies outside of the Moorish dominions, and I am unaware of the relations which may exist between the Chiefs of the Province and the French and Spanish authorities, nor am I able to express any opinion as to the value of the Concessions said to have been granted by the Chief of Adrar, or of the view which would be taken of such Concessions by the French authorities, who, Mr. Byrne states, subsidize the above-mentioned personage.

If Mr. Byrne desires to establish stores at Cape Juby, an application could be made to the Moorish Government in accordance with the provisions of the 6th clause of the Cape Juby Agreement of 1895. I would wish, however, to state that, in response to previous communications with the Moorish Government on this point, the Grand Vizier informed me that no arrangements had yet been made for establishing custom-houses at Cape Juby, and therefore requested that merchants should postpone undertaking commercial operations there. There is an official at Cape Juby with a small body of troops, but provisions of food and supplies of water have to be periodically brought from Mogador to maintain them in existence ; and probably the Moorish Government hesitates to augment the number of employés in that desolate spot.

Nevertheless, if Mr. Byrne desires to open up trading operations at Cape Juby, the Moorish Government is undoubtedly bound to facilitate them within the terms of the Agreement; and I would, with your Lordship's sanction, be happy to address myself once more to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I beg leave to return the original inclosures in your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 29, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 4th instant the French Minister informed me this morning that he had received a very unsatisfactory reply from the Grand Vizier in response to his representations in regard to the detention of an Algerian Sub-Lieutenant by the Cadi of Rabat. The Grand Vizier, instead of acceding to M. de Moubel's request that the above functionary should publicly apologize for his action, had undertaken the defence of the Cadi, and had stated that as the Algerian was a Mussulman, and had been charged with employing insulting terms in respect to the Moslem religion, the Cadi was acting within his rights in punishing a co-religionist.

M. de Moubel considers that this reply of the Grand Vizier increases the gravity of the incident, as it practically amounts to a contention that French Moslem subjects are under the jurisdiction of Moorish officials in certain cases—a pretension which it would be impossible to admit, especially in view of the large number of Algerians residing in Morocco. The Algerian, on his servant stating that he would summon him before the Shraa or Moorish religious law, may have laughed, M. de Moubel said, but it was extremely unlikely that he would have spoken with disrespect of his own religion.

M. de Moubel has forwarded a copy of the Grand Vizier's note to Paris, and will await instructions ; but he feared that strong measures might have to be adopted unless the Grand Vizier abandoned the position he had taken up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 30, 1899.

I LEARN privately from the Court that the Grand Vizier has lately been seriously ill, and at one moment his life was considered to be in danger. He suffers considerably from gout, and on the 21st instant had a paralytic stroke, which caused great anxiety. Kaïd Maclean, who saw him on the following day, found him unable to speak ; but since then he has improved, and the worse symptoms have passed away.

Should his Excellency be compelled to retire from office, or his illness have a fatal termination, he would probably be succeeded by his brother, Ci Saïd, at present Minister of War. The latter is a man of intelligence and of more liberal views than his brother. He is very friendly disposed to England, and is popular in the army ; and though the provincial Governors and the people, who have suffered so severely under the Government of the present Grand Vizier, might object to another member of the same family being appointed to the post, still with the Sultan and the army on his side Ci Saïd would be able to hold his own.

The incapacity of the Grand Vizier to attend to work has suspended for the time all official business, as his Excellency has excluded all, even his own Sovereign, from any participation in affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 72.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. M. Grey.

Foreign Office, April 14, 1899.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th ultimo relating to your wish to proceed to Arksis for the purpose of opening up trade at that port, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that Her Majesty's Government, having carefully examined this question, have arrived at the following conclusions in the matter:—

The Moorish Government intimated, in 1898, its intention to open the port of Arksis to trade, but under conditions which it was not advisable to accept. Since that date no further steps have been taken, and no arrangements have been made for establishing a custom-house there, and until the port is formally declared open by the Sultan, and the necessary officials have been appointed for the collection of custom duties, it would not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be legitimate for any person to endeavour to trade at that place.

Should it, however, be eventually opened, British merchants may rely on receiving early information to that effect, and British subjects who would then engage in legitimate trade would receive the same protection as is enjoyed by their countrymen in the other open ports in Morocco.

In the event of your wishing to proceed to the Sus country preparatory to the opening of the port of Arksis, I am to point out that the Moorish Government has on more than one occasion requested that no travellers should visit that province, and declines, in the event of their doing so without permission, to be responsible for their safety.

Under Article IV of the General Treaty of 1856, His Shereefian Majesty engages that British subjects shall have a free and undoubted right to travel and to reside in the territories and dominions of his said Majesty, subject to the same precautions of police, which are practical towards the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation, and it is unlikely that any application for permission to visit this particular district would be granted at the present time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 73.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received April* 20.)

Downing Street, April 6, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, inclosing copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier inquiring, on behalf of the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, as to the procedure to be adopted by the latter for bringing Major Spilsbury to trial before the Supreme Court of Gibraltar on the 10th instant.

2. In reply, I am to request you to inform the Marquess of Salisbury that Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the opinion that the Attorney-General should proceed by *ex officio* information, and that the Governor of Gibraltar has been instructed by telegraph accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

No. 74.

Mr. H. E. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 45.)

Tangier, April 14, 1899.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from "Le Réveil du Maroc" of the 13th instant, reporting that, in consequence of its defeat by a neighbouring tribe, the Moorish tribe of Mehaïa had taken refuge in Algerian territory, and demanded the protection of the French Government. One portion of the tribe, consisting of about thirty tents, having gone to Mecheria, and the bulk of the tribe, consisting of about

2,000 persons, with large quantities of cattle, to Lalla Maghrina, whence they were sent to join their brethren at Mecheria.

The French Minister tells me that the news is quite correct, even the figures being exact, with the exception of the camels, whose numbers, he thinks, have been exaggerated. He observed that the sudden immigration of so large a body of men and cattle causes the Algerian Government some embarrassment, as, in addition to the question of food, it is necessary to place troops round the Mehaïa, who are all robbers. A considerable expense will thus be incurred, and it will be very difficult to recover payment from the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Extract from "Le Réveil du Maroc" of April 13, 1899.

NOUVELLES DE LA FRONTIÈRE: LA FIN D'UN CONFLIT.—On nous écrit d'Oran, 7 Avril:—

"Le conflit armé qui menaçait d'embraser la frontière ouest de notre Colonie Algérienne vient de se terminer par un véritable coup de théâtre.

"Au moment où de nouveaux combats semblaient prochains, les Mehayas, si fortement éprouvés lors de la dernière razzia des Djads, ont quitté leurs territoires et sont venus demander protection au Gouvernement Français.

"Une fraction de cette tribu, forte de trente tentes, s'est rendue dans le cercle de Mecheria. Quant au gros de la tribu, comportant environ 2,000 individus, il a pénétré sur notre territoire, près de Lalla-Maghrnia.

"Les Mehayas ont remis aux autorités environ 300 fusils.

"Le Gouverneur-Général a décidé que les Mehayas seront conduits dans les environs de Mecheria, où ils resteront jusqu'à nouvel ordre."

"L'Écho d'Oran" ajoute à cette nouvelle les renseignements complémentaires suivants:—

"Ces Marocains emmenaient avec eux, en même temps que leurs troupeaux, une partie de ceux de leurs voisins, dit-on, soit 100,000 moutons, 10,000 chameaux, et 200 bœufs.

"En raison de l'extrême encombrement que cause l'arrivée de cette importante fraction Marocaine sur notre territoire, et pour éviter les déprédations que ses très nombreux bestiaux ne sauraient manquer de causer, M. le Gouverneur-Général a décidé que les Mehayas seraient conduits dans les environs de Mécheria, où ils resteraient jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

"On pense que la disparition des Mehayas bien que devant temporiser les événements pour le moment, n'aura peut-être pas pour effet de faire disparaître tout danger de conflit vers notre frontière de l'ouest, où l'agitation reste encore assez vive."

Les journaux Algériens protestent naturellement contre cette agitation permanente de la frontière, une hospitalité forcée délivrée à des voisins gênants et aussi les dépenses que cette hospitalité entraîne.

Ils demandent à nos diplomates de ne pas manquer de réclamer énergiquement à Marrakesh contre cette violation de la frontière Algérienne et l'invasion de hordes plus ou moins pillardes.

A Marrakesh malheureusement on se frappe la poitrine, on répond: "Que pouvons-nous y faire? Chez nous, nous ne sommes pas mieux lotis!"

No. 75.

Mr. H. E. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 46. Confidential.)

Tangier, April 16, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 38 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Russian Minister, M. de Bacheracht, and his suite landed from the cruiser "Grosiastachy" at Mazagan on the 29th ultimo, and started

on the following day on the march to Morocco city, arriving at the last camp outside that town on the 7th instant.

By direction of the Vizier, Kaïd Maclean called on the Minister at that camp on the afternoon of his arrival, and conveyed friendly messages from the Moorish Government, assuring him of their desire to meet his wishes in every way. M. de Bacheracht replied that the Moorish Government would probably be pleased to learn that he had come to the Court merely to present his credentials, and that he had no other business to transact. He added that as the man-of-war was waiting for him, he did not wish to remain at the Court more than a fortnight.

The formal entry of the Mission into the city was successfully accomplished next morning, the arrangements for the procession having been intrusted to Kaïd Maclean, to whom M. de Bacheracht subsequently expressed his thanks.

The officers of the French Military Mission at the Court had been directed by the Moorish Minister for War to be with the artillery at the time of the entry. They, however, ignored these orders, and went out to the Russian camp in the early morning, riding in with the Minister's suite. They had also been out to greet M. de Bacheracht on his arrival in camp the previous day.

Kaïd Maclean informs me, confidentially, that the Vizier, fearing that Dr. Linares, the medical officer attached to the French Military Mission, would probably endeavour to prejudice the Russian Minister against the Court, begged him (Kaïd Maclean) to endeavour to counteract his influence by doing what he could to please M. de Bacheracht.

A point of etiquette in connection with the visits appears to have caused some difficulty on the arrival of the Mission. The Minister claimed that he should receive the first visit from the Grand Vizier, whilst the latter was unwilling to agree to this course, alleging that it would be contrary to precedent. When the courier left on the 10th instant the visit had not yet been paid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 76.

Question asked in the House of Commons, April 24, 1899.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to a statement sworn to by Major Spilsbury in the course of his trial at Gibraltar, to the effect that the same Foreign Office warning that was conveyed to him with respect to the expedition of the "Tourmaline" was also conveyed to the Directors of the Globe Venture Syndicate:

And whether there is any foundation for this statement; and, if so, whether the Government propose to proceed criminally against the Directors of the Syndicate named.

Answer.

The Directors of the Globe Venture Syndicate were warned against the "Tourmaline" expedition, but it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to take criminal proceedings against them.

No. 77.

Question asked in the House of Commons, April 24, 1899.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the recent acquittal of Major Spilsbury, after a full trial by jury before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, the Government will reconsider their

decision to abstain from demanding compensation from the Moorish Government on behalf of Mr. Henry Grey and his fellow prisoners for the cruelties to which they were subjected in captivity.

Answer.

As at present advised, Her Majesty's Government see no grounds for reconsidering their decision in the matter.

No. 78.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 24, 1899.

A LETTER from the Grand Vizier to Sir A. Nicolson has just been received here. It mentions the Mission which failed to reach London in 1897, and states that the Shereefian Government still wishes to send an Envoy.

The Grand Vizier requests that arrangements may be made by Sir A. Nicolson, whilst in London, for the reception of the Mission, and that a date for its arrival may be appointed.

No. 79.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson on the proposed Moorish Mission to this Country.

THE Mission will, in all probability, not be empowered to deal decisively with any political matters; and, therefore, it will be merely complimentary. It will be difficult to entertain or enlighten the members of it; and it will entail considerable expense and trouble. I do not anticipate any practical results either in favour of British interests or of Morocco from it. Still a disinclination to receive it would doubtless cause disappointment and give offence.

Presumably it would be inconvenient for the Mission to arrive in England later than the middle of July. I am afraid that the Moorish Government will expect that the Mission will be conveyed from Tangier and back in a man-of-war; and that it will be lodged during its stay in this country.

I would suggest that a telegram be sent to Mr. White instructing him to inform the Grand Vizier, in suitable terms, that a Mission will be welcome; but that it should not leave Tangier later than the middle of June.

I would be happy to write privately to Kaïd Maclean, whose presence with the Mission is eminently desirable, as to number of Mission and other details.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, S.W., April 27, 1899.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1899.

I HAVE received Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 39 of the 28th ultimo relating to the proposal made by Mr. Byrne to trade with Adrar through the post of Cape Juby, and I concur in Her Majesty's Minister's suggestion that a further communication should be made to the Grand Vizier with regard to this matter.

You are accordingly authorized to address a suitable note to his Excellency requesting that the Moorish Government will grant facilities for the proposed trading operations, in accordance with the provisions of the 6th clause of the Cape Juby Agreement of 1895.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 81.

Mr. H. Grey to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

5, *Avenue Mansions, Clapham Common, London,*
April 27, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's letter to me of the 22nd November last, wherein I was informed that, in view of the fact that all those persons who landed in the Sûs country from the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" were implicated in a premeditated and deliberate attempt to raise a rebellion against the authority of the Sultan of Morocco, Her Majesty's Government had decided to abstain from demanding pecuniary compensation from the Moorish Government for the treatment which I and my fellow-captives received at the hands of their officials, I desire now to draw your Lordship's attention to the following facts, viz.:—

1. Major Spilsbury, the leader of the "Tourmaline" expedition, has just been tried by a jury of his fellow-subjects at Gibraltar on the charge mentioned in your Lordship's letter of the 22nd November, and has been acquitted.

2. Major Spilsbury, in his evidence before the Court, stated that "the same warnings which were made to me were made to the Directors of the Syndicate, but none of them were arrested or deprived of their pensions." The warnings here referred to have never been shown to me to this day, either by Major Spilsbury, the Globe Venture Syndicate, or the Foreign Office, to which I have made applications for copies of the letters, both in person and in writing, but without success. Two of the Directors of the Syndicate are ex-officials of the Government—one, the Chairman, occupying the distinguished position of an ex-Ambassador.

3. Neither I nor the other British subjects arrested in Morocco had the privilege of a trial by jury; and the evidence on which we were convicted was from the mouths of witnesses raked out of the Sultan's prisons at Morocco city, who were even brought into Tangier in fetters that had to be filed off before they could appear in a civilized Court of Law as "witnesses for the Crown." The value of such testimony I leave to your Lordship to estimate.

Under these circumstances, I venture to hope that, in the interests of justice, Her Majesty's Government will see their way to review the conclusion they had arrived at. If Major Spilsbury is innocent—and a duly constituted Court of Law has declared him so—his subordinates cannot well be guilty. Some of the latter have, however, suffered imprisonment at the instance of the Government, after having endured hideous ill-treatment at the hands of semi-barbarous Moorish officials, in absolute defiance and disregard of Treaties existing between this country and Morocco. With profound respect, I submit that for Her Majesty's Government to be satisfied with "an expression of regret on the part of the Moorish Government" would be a direct encouragement to acts of violence on the part of Moors towards British subjects in that country in future, while a "severe censure of Kaïd Guilooly" would have about as much moral effect as a censure of the Mad Mullah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. GREY.

No. 82.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 49.)
Tangier, April 18, 1899.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida reports that, at the beginning of this month, a batch of twenty-two female slaves were publicly offered for sale at Mazagan, but that in consequence of representations made by Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney, to whom he had sent instructions, the men in charge of the slaves were ordered to leave the town, and the auctioneer was imprisoned.

Consular Reports from the other posts are to the effect that no public sales of slaves have recently occurred except at Rabat, where sales are still held in the building used for that purpose. No reply having been received from the Grand Vizier to the

letter on the subject addressed to him by Sir Arthur Nicolson on the 9th August, 1898, as reported in his despatch No. 110 of that date, I propose again to bring the matter to the Vizier's notice, and suggest that orders be sent to the Governor of Rabat to put a stop to the public sale of slaves in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 83.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 50.)
Tangier, April 21, 1899.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my telegram No. 6 of the 19th instant, reporting the acquittal of Major Spilsbury, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I learn from Mr. Irwin that the verdict of not guilty which the jury returned after a very short deliberation was presumably based on the plea of Major Spilsbury that he acted in self-defence, not having at first recognized the Moorish Government steamer, and fearing that the armed Moors who put off in her boats might be pirates. On all other points the case appeared to be amply proved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—Since closing this despatch, I have received a copy of the "Gibraltar Chronicle," with an account of the close of the case, which I have the honour to inclose herewith. From this account it appears that the Chief Justice summed up most adversely to the defendant, saying that the charge was one of riot and assault on the boats of the "Hassanee," that the defendant acknowledged in his letters the first part of the charge, and the Counsel for the prosecution had clearly proved the assault.

Public feeling, it appears, ran very high at Gibraltar in favour of Major Spilsbury, who received an ovation on leaving the Court.

H. E. W.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Extract from the "Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette" of April 20, 1899.

THE trial of Major Spilsbury was concluded yesterday. Not since the Callan case has so much interest been shown by the general public in the daily proceedings in Court. The Court-house has been crowded throughout, and many ladies were provided with seats, and sat out with the greatest patience all the, at times, wearing details.

One of the chief features of yesterday's proceedings was the address by Mr. Griffith, the leading Counsel for the defence, which was pronounced by all as being particularly clever. His sympathetic voice, and the telling manner in which he made his points, were particularly noticeable. His appeal to the jury when relating all that the defendant had undergone since the first proceedings had been instituted was very touching. How he had been imprisoned for three weeks in England, his commission in the army, held for over thirty years, being taken from him. His journey to Gibraltar for trial; a trial according to the laws of England being denied him until he had appealed to the Privy Council, when a trial by jury was ordered; the long delays, the great expense; all these points were forcibly brought before the notice of the jury. Nor did Mr. Griffith omit to appeal on behalf of a plucky Englishman who, taking his life in his hand, had endeavoured to push British commerce in unknown and dangerous lands. Where, he said, would now have been England's greatness if such men, the pioneers of our country, had all been tried and condemned for such acts as these? Mr. Griffith sat down, amidst loud applause, having evidently made a most favourable impression on all his hearers, including the jury.

Mr. Fawkes, the Attorney-General and Counsel for the prosecution, made the best of what appeared a weak case. His technical knowledge of boats, his calm cynical manner were all effective, his address was dry, legal, and to the point; but when he sat down even his Honour the Chief Justice himself seemed to think he had not clearly

established all the points in the charge, and further remarks were invited after the adjournment for lunch, which took place at 1 P.M.

At 2 P.M. the Court resumed its sitting, and the question of "assault" was again gone into; the Attorney-General laying down that if words threatening an assault were used, combined with the possession of means to carry it out, that "assault" was clearly made.

The Chief Justice, in summing up, did so most adversely to the defendant. He told the jury they should put from their minds all the sentiment and side issues brought forward, and concentrate their thoughts on the simple charge that the defendant did "Riot and assault on the boats of the 'Hassanee,' at the time manned by soldiers of the Sultan of Morocco."

He considered the defendant acknowledged in his letters the first part of this charge, and that the Counsel for the prosecution had clearly proved the assault. That the question as to the action of the Foreign Office, the War Office, or Her Majesty's Ministers, or political officers, had nothing to do with the case laid before them, and their clear duty was to decide whether the defendant was guilty or not guilty of the charge he then read to them.

At a quarter-past 3 the jury retired to consider their verdict, and returned in a quarter of an hour. Major Spilsbury, who up to this had retained a calm and impassive manner, only showed, by a slight change of colour as he took his seat, how this vital crisis in his life affected him. In reply to the question as to their finding, the breathless pause was broken by the foreman of the jury's delivery of those magic words "Not guilty." Immediately there was a burst of applause from the spectators in Court, showing which way the general feelings ran. The Captain of the "Tourmaline" grasped Major Spilsbury's hands, and numerous friends congratulated him. As he left the Court he was greeted by the waiting crowd outside with continued shouts and cheers, which he acknowledged by raising his hat and saying, "I will not soon forget Gibraltar." The cheers were continued as he passed along the streets accompanied by his sister, who has been present throughout the trial, and his Counsel, Mr. Griffith. Members of the crowd pressed forward in many places to shake his hand, and soldiers all along the line seized Mr. Griffith by the hand to show how they appreciated his able defence.

Everywhere the satisfaction at the acquittal seemed almost universal. At the clubs old stories of previous attempts at introducing trade into Sûs were told, and the general expression of opinion was given that "Gibraltar people" never considered Sûs as belonging to Morocco. In fact, the whole case was looked upon rather as a minor "Jameson raid," and that if it had been successful nothing further would have been heard about it.

No. 84.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 21, 1899.

THE Spanish Minister, M. de Ojeda, informs me that he has learnt from a report of the Spanish Vice-Consul at Nemours, communicated to him by his Government, that a French Military Mission, consisting of a Colonel and four officers, has been stationed at Ujda for the last two months for the ostensible purpose of settling claims arising out of the frontier disturbances last year.

M. de Ojeda looks upon the presence of this Mission at Ujda with some suspicion, as he considers it would have been more natural to negotiate the settlement of such claims through the French Legation here. He informed me, confidentially, that he had reasons for believing that the Moorish Government are alarmed at French policy on the frontier, and are about to make representations on the subject to the various foreign Representatives at Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 85.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1899.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 40 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have heard from Kaïd Maclean that the Vizier told him that he had agreed to all the demands made by the French Minister in connection with the recent imprisonment of an Algerian by the Kadi at Rabat.

The French Legation, however, does not appear to have yet heard of the Vizier's agreement to their demands, as M. de Monbel, of whom I took an opportunity this afternoon of incidentally inquiring how the matter stood, informed me that he had heard nothing more on the subject from the Court, and was awaiting instructions from his Government before taking further action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 86.

Mr. H. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have addressed to the Grand Vizier acquainting him with the result of the trial of Major Spilsbury.

It will, I fear, be difficult to make the Vizier understand that Her Majesty's Government can only proceed against its subjects strictly in accordance with British law and legal procedure, and that it could not have punished Major Spilsbury had it really desired to do so. It is, however, I think, nevertheless, advisable that I should report the result of the trial to the Vizier, as it would have a worse effect where he to learn it solely from other sources.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Mr. White to the Grand Vizier.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, April* 22, 1899.

YOU are aware, oh friend, from the letters that have at various times been addressed to you by Her Majesty's Minister that Her Majesty's Government, actuated by its friendship towards the Shereefian Government, and in attention to its complaint against the British subjects who visited the Sûs coast in the steam-ship "Tourmaline," not content with the prosecution and punishment of the men who were captured at Arksis, have spared no trouble or expense in fully investigating the matter, and in prosecuting Major Spilsbury who went to Arksis in the steamer in question.

After some delay caused by the appeal of Major Spilsbury to the Privy Council in London, when it was decided that he could not be deprived of the right to be tried by a jury, as is the invariable rule in England, the case came on for trial last week in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, and after a hearing which lasted several days, the jury declared that they considered that Major Spilsbury was not guilty of the offence of which he was accused, and he was accordingly discharged by the Court.

Throughout this affair Her Majesty's Government have taken all the steps they could in the interests of His Shereefian Majesty, and had the occurrence taken place in their own dominions they could not have proceeded otherwise than they have done. I am sure your Excellency will see in this an additional proof of their goodwill towards the Shereefian Government.

May you continue in peace.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 87.

Foreign Office to Mr. White.

(No. 40.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 49 of the 18th ultimo, and I approve your proposal to again bring to the notice of the Grand Vizier the question of the public sale of slaves at Rabat, and to suggest that orders should be sent to the Governor of that town to put a stop to such sales.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 42.)

Foreign Office, May 5, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 54 of the 22nd ultimo inclosing a copy of the communication addressed by you to the Grand Vizier for the purpose of acquainting him with the result of Major Spilsbury's trial.

The communication in question has my approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. Grey.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, in which you express the hope that Her Majesty's Government will see their way to review the conclusion at which they have arrived to abstain from demanding compensation from the Moorish Government for the treatment experienced by you and your fellow captives.

In reply, I am to inform you that Her Majesty's Government must adhere to their decision in the matter which was communicated to you in the letter from this Office of the 22nd November, 1898.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 90.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 55.)

Tangier, April 24, 1899.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter from the Grand Vizier addressed to Sir A. Nicolson, referring to the failure of the Moorish Envoy sent in 1897 to fulfil his Mission to London, and stating that the Shereefian Government is still resolved to send an Envoy to England.

The Vizier requests Sir A. Nicolson, when in London, to arrange that the Mission be received, and to inform him at what date it should reach England.

I propose to await your Lordship's instructions before replying to the Vizier's letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After Compliments.)

THE Government has heard that you intend journeying to England for rest and to visit your relatives for about three months, and as it is known that you are sure to meet Her Majesty, the Exalted, and the members of Her Government, the Respected, it is befitting that we should remind you, oh intelligent one, of that which is not hidden from you, as to the obstacle which prevented the fulfilment of the Embassy which His Shereefian Majesty had sent to the Court of Great Britain, the Exalted; and that the Makhzen, God exalt it, is still resolved to send its Envoy to the said Court, as previously promised; so that you may arrange this, oh intelligent one, and hasten to inform us as to the time you may appoint between you, in order that the Envoy, who will be appointed on behalf of His Shereefian Majesty, may be dispatched, please God. I trust fullest health and peace and the most complete happiness will accompany you in your journey there and back, and during your stay.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

2 *Hejja*, 1316 (*April* 13, 1899).

No. 91.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 56.)

Tangier, April 25, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian Minister was received by the Sultan in public audience on the 11th instant, the ceremony observed being the same as customary on such occasions.

Unfortunately, after the Sultan's departure, when M. de Bacheracht was mounting his horse, the animal became restive, and he fell heavily, striking his head on the ground. He remained insensible for some little time and had to be carried home in a chair. He does not appear, however, to have suffered any serious injury, and was received again by the Sultan in private audience on the 15th instant, the Vizier being present.

I understand that the question of paying the first visit was settled in the Vizier's favour. M. de Bacheracht informed the Vizier that he had been advised by the French Minister not to pay the first visit, but that as the Vizier had declared that M. de Moubel and the other Ministers had all called on him first he was willing to follow the precedent. He accordingly called on the Vizier on the 13th instant, the Vizier returning his visit on the following day.

The latest reports from Morocco city are to the effect that, after attending the usual banquets, the Russian Mission was to leave on the 23rd instant for Mazagan to embark for Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 92.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 9. Commercial.)

Tangier, April 27, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 8, Commercial, of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report that at a meeting of the Board of Health held on the 22nd instant the German Minister, as President, communicated to his colleagues the reply received from the Grand Vizier to a letter of the Board requesting the repayment of a sum of 8,166 pesetas (about 272*l.*) which had been expended by the Board in connection with the quarantine station at Mogador Island.

As in this letter, the Vizier contested the authority of the Board in such matters, and, as no reply had been received to the letter of the 6th ultimo, translation of which was inclosed in Sir A. Nicolson's above-mentioned despatch, whilst, on the other hand, a fresh batch of prisoners had been lately sent to Mogador Island, the members of the Board were unanimously of opinion that the time had arrived for definitely deciding the question of the authority of the Board of Health.

It was suggested that the note, translation of which was forwarded to your Lordship in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 4th January, should be sent at once, and the discussion of any ulterior action that might have to be taken should be left until the Moorish Government had actually refused to accede to our demands.

I observed that I could not sign the note in question until I had submitted to your Lordship the suggestions of the Board as to the action to be taken in case of such refusal, and that it was therefore advisable to discuss the matter at once, especially as the time for the return of the pilgrims was approaching.

The French Minister having stated that his instructions were similar to mine, the matter was discussed, and it was agreed that in case the Moorish Government persisted in its refusal to grant the whole of Mogador Island to the Board of Health exclusively for quarantine purposes, it would be advisable to make a joint naval demonstration off that island, and, if necessary, to take possession of it. It was considered preferable that the action should be collective instead of a few Powers being delegated to act in the name of the others, which might give rise to a misapprehension on the part of the Moorish authorities.

I suggested that it would be well to explain in the note to be addressed to the Moorish Government that the foreign Representatives, in insisting on all possible precautions being taken to prevent the importation of plague into Morocco, were acting in the interests of their own countries as well as in those of Morocco, for otherwise it might be said that as members of the Board of Health, they are merely Delegates of the Sultan, and could therefore not bring pressure to bear on the Shereefian Government to make it adopt their views.

In order to insure identic reports being sent to all the Governments, the Spanish Minister drew up, by request, a Memorandum explaining the views of the Board of Health, and submitted it to his colleagues at a meeting held for that purpose on the following day.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of this Memorandum, as unanimously approved by all the foreign Representatives, together with copies of the *procès-verbaux* of the two meetings, in so far as they refer to the subject-matter of this despatch; and I beg to be favoured with your Lordship's instructions for my future guidance in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Health, April 22, 1899.

Présidence de M. le Baron SCHENCK, Ministre d'Allemagne.

Étaient présents :

M. le Comte de Crenneville, Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie.
M. Anspach, Ministre de Belgique.
M. de Ojéda, Ministre d'Espagne.
M. de Monbel, Ministre de France.
Mr. White, Chargé d'Affaires de la Grande-Bretagne.
M. Malmusi, Ministre d'Italie.
M. de Quillinan, Gérant du Consulat-Général de Portugal.

M. le Baron Schenk donne lecture d'une lettre du Grand Vizir répondant à une précédente communication, par laquelle il déclare que le Makhzen refuse de payer les 8,166 pésétas dépensées en frais de quarantaine, parce que le médecin n'a pas été envoyé,

suivant la règle, par l'intermédiaire du Représentant du Sultan. Si Ahmed émet également la prétention de déterminer lui-même les appointements du médecin et les dépenses de médicaments. Il termine par la déclaration que les pouvoirs du Conseil Sanitaire doivent se borner aux questions de "sanida," c'est-à-dire à ce qui concerne les formalités sanitaires des expéditions de navires.

Comme le fait observer M. le Baron Schenk, et tous les membres du Conseil partagent cette opinion, cette communication indique la résolution bien arrêtée dans l'esprit du Makhzen de contester toujours les droits du Conseil Sanitaire, et de ne jamais lui donner satisfaction dans ses demandes. Cette situation doit avoir un terme.

D'autre part, la dernière communication du Conseil relative au lazaret de l'Ile de Mogador a été envoyée à Marrâkèch, il y a plus d'un mois, et n'a pas encore reçu de réponse. Cependant, nous pouvons induire, du fait que de nouveaux prisonniers ont été envoyés de Mazagan à l'Ile, la conviction que le Makhzen n'est pas diposé à nous donner satisfaction.

La discussion est donc amenée sur le projet de notre comminatoire précédemment rédigé par M. de Bacheracht et dont certains Gouvernements ont approuvé l'envoi, tandis que d'autres ont suspendu leur décision à ce sujet jusqu'à ce que leur Représentant leur ait proposé la solution qu'il y aurait lieu d'adopter au cas où le Makhzen répondrait par un refus.

Certains membres du Conseil considèrent qu'il n'est plus temps d'envoyer cette note et proposent de s'arrêter à une décision immédiate.

Mr. White exprime l'avis que le temps presse et qu'il y aurait lieu de se mettre d'accord dès maintenant, en raison du retour des pèlerins, qui peut avoir lieu dans un mois et demi environ.

M. de Monbel exprime la même opinion et demande quelle sanction pourrait être la suite d'un refus éventuel du Makhzen.

Le Baron Schenck pense que, parmi les Puissances, dont les Représentants forment le Conseil Sanitaire, les unes sont directement intéressées, à cause de leur voisinage, à un règlement satisfaisant de la question, tandis que les autres n'y ont pas d'intérêt direct.

M. de Ojéda combat cet avis et estime que les Puissances Européennes doivent agir en commun pour plusieurs raisons, ou donner leur mandat à qui bon leur semblera, mais que c'est aux différents Cabinets à arrêter une décision.

Il déclare que la situation actuelle peut être la source d'un danger dont le Conseil serait responsable vis-à-vis de l'Europe.

M. de Monbel pense également qu'en représentant aux Gouvernements la situation sous son véritable jour, et en leur signalant l'impossibilité dans laquelle le Conseil se trouve de remplir ses fonctions, les Cabinets Européens chercheront le moyen de résoudre la question.

Mr. White: "La démonstration devra donc être collective."

M. de Ojéda pense aussi que le Conseil Sanitaire ne peut continuer à remplir ses fonctions s'il n'a pas à sa disposition l'île entière de Mogador.

Mr. White exprime l'avis que les membres du Conseil doivent se représenter comme étant, dans les questions sanitaires, non seulement les mandataires du Sultan, mais aussi ceux de l'Europe.

M. de Ojéda développe cette idée en constatant que le Conseil, n'ayant pas à sa disposition les moyens de remplir exactement des fonctions dont il a la responsabilité vis-à-vis des Puissances, doit exprimer son opinion nettement, et conseiller la prise de possession de l'Ile de Mogador, faute de quoi, il n'aurait qu'à se démettre. "Nous ne pouvons," dit-il, "continuer à jouir plus longtemps aux yeux de l'Europe le rôle de Conseil Sanitaire qui n'en est pas un, et qui ne peut donner les garanties qu'on attend de lui."

Après cette discussion, il est décidé que les membres du Conseil proposeront séparément à leurs Gouvernements la prise de possession de l'Ile de Mogador, et poseront en même temps en principe que, si cette démarche est adoptée, elle devra être collective.

Les Puissances, si toutefois elles ne partagent pas ce dernier avis, décideront quelle Puissance serait chargée de la manifestation; les membres du Conseil ne sauraient, en effet, rien à suggérer à ce sujet.

M. de Ojéda veut bien se charger de rédiger un projet de note renfermant les points précités, qui sera annexée au procès-verbal et envoyée à tous les Gouvernements.

Il insiste de nouveau pour que la démonstration soit collective, ce qui est approuvé à l'unanimité.

Lorsque les Gouvernements auront pria leur décision, elle sera appliquée sans que le

Makhzen ait été de nouveau avisé, attendu qu'il n'en résulterait qu'une perte de temps, ses dernières communications ne laissant pas de doute sur ses résolutions.

Différentes questions secondaires, telles que celles des dépenses, trouveraient ultérieurement leur règlement.

La discussion du projet de note de M. de Ojéda aura lieu demain, Dimanche, 23 Avril.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Health, April 23, 1899.

Présidence de M. le Baron SCHENK, Ministre d'Allemagne.

Étaient présents :

M. le Comte de Crenneville, Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie.
M. Anspach, Ministre de Belgique.
M. de Ojéda, Ministre d'Espagne.
M. Gummeré, Consul-Général des États-Unis d'Amérique.
M. de Monbel, Ministre de France.
Mr. White, Chargé d'Affaires de la Grande-Bretagne.
M. Malmusi, Ministre d'Italie.
M. de Quillinan, Gérant du Consulat-Général de Portugal. .

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

M. de Ojéda donne lecture du projet de note qu'il a rédigé suivant les indications décidées dans la précédente séance.

Après un échange de vues entre les membres du Conseil Sanitaire il est décidé à l'unanimité d'adresser aux Gouvernements une note concluant à ce que, au cas probable où le Makhzen refuserait d'optempérer à leur dernière demande amicale d'évacuation immédiate de l'Ile de Mogador, ils aient recours en dernier lieu à une démonstration navale collective de toutes les Puissances représentées au Maroc dont le but serait d'approprier cette île au service que la civilisation, l'humanité, et le bien public réclament depuis si longtemps, et autorisent les Représentants, en prévoyance de ce refus, à adresser un ultimatum au Gouvernement Chérifien en lui fixant un délai pour remettre le Conseil Sanitaire en possession exclusive de l'île.

Mr. White désirant faire, au nom de son Gouvernement, différentes observations au sujet de l'établissement d'un lazaret à l'Ile de Mogador, annexera une note au procès-verbal.

Le Règlement du 15 Juin, 1897, relatif aux navires apportant des passagers Marocains sera exécuté à partir du 10 Mai prochain.

Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) EUGÈNE FURNEY.

Je suis autorisé par mon Gouvernement de m'associer avec les autres membres du Conseil Sanitaire pour tâcher de nous assurer l'usage exclusif de l'Ile de Mogador pour y maintenir sous surveillance des personnes arrivant du Hédjaz à des époques où il y aurait danger de l'importation du choléra ou de la peste de l'Orient, sous la réserve, cependant, que je ne dois appuyer que des mesures qui seraient en conformité avec les termes de la Convention de Venise, et qui n'ont rapport qu'au trafic des pèlerins. L'approbation du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté se base sur le Titre VIII de la Convention de Venise, où il est convenu que "des mesures spéciales peuvent être prescrites à l'égard des navires encombrés, notamment des navires d'émigrants, ou tout autre navire offrant de mauvaises conditions."

(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Annexe.

Après nn échange de vues entre les Représentants sur la situation difficile créée au Conseil Sanitaire par l'obstruction systématique opposée à leur action par le Gouvernement Chériffien, le Corps Diplomatique décide d'adresser à leurs Gouvernements respectifs un exposé de la situation dans les termes identiques suivants :—

"Les Représentants des Puissances, depuis deux années ont en vain épuisé leurs

efforts auprès du Makhzen en vue d'obtenir que celui-ci restituât comme par le passé, l'Ile de Mogador à l'usage exclusif d'un lazaret que le Conseil Sanitaire juge indispensable d'y mantenir afin de préserver ce pays et l'Europe des épidémies dont les menace le retour périodique des pèlerins de La Mecque.

Le Makhzen s'étant encore récemment refusé à faire l'abandon complet de la dite île, les Représentants désireux de tenter encore une dernière démarche conciliatrice, ont été d'avis d'adresser au Gouvernement Chériffien une note identique comminatoire à ce sujet qu'ils ont soumise à l'approbation de leurs Gouvernemeuts respectifs. Ceux-ci en ayant approuvé la teneur, mais deux d'entre eux ayant désiré, avant de l'expédier au Grand Vizir, connaître le cours que le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger se proposerait de recommander à leurs Gouvernements au cas où le Makhzen refuserait encore une fois d'obtempérer à notre demande, les Représentants à l'unanimité ont décidé d'aborder aujourd'hui cette importante question afin de se mettre d'accord sur les mesures qu'ils pourraient recommander à leurs Gouvernements.

Et tout d'abord ils ont commencé par reconnaître que, étant chargés du double rôle de préserver le Maroc, ainsi que l'Europe, des atteintes des épidémies, et plus spécialement aujourd'hui, de les garantir contre le fléau de la peste qui par le retour prochain des pèlerins nous menace plus directement, le Conseil Sanitaire doit par son caractère spécial ainsi que par la haute représentation des Puissances dont ses membres sont investis offrir au monde civilisé des garanties de sécurité qui ne seraient que dérisoires, à son autorité et son action protectrice, continuent à être non seulement contestées mais entraînées par le Gouvernement Chériffien.

C'est donc par suite de ce double rôle, et des responsabilités qui, en vue du danger imminent qui nous menace, pèsent tant sur le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger que sur les Gouvernements qu'ils représentent, que le Conseil Sanitaire a cru indispensable à l'exercice de sa mission de convertir en lazaret l'Ile de Mogador comme étant le seul endroit au Maroc approprié aux besoins et aux exigences d'un établissement de ce genre.

Malheureusement la dernière réponse du Gouvernement Chériffien à la demande collective qui lui a été adressée à propos du remboursement d'une somme avancée par le Conseil pour un service de quarantine établi il y a deux ans à l'Ile de Mogador, dans laquelle les pouvoirs du Conseil sont nettement contestés, ainsi que l'envoi récent d'un nouveau contingent de prisonniers à l'île susdite, font désespérer à juste titre du succès de toute démarche ultérieure pacifique ayant pour but la cession de l'Ile de Mogador.

Les Représentants se trouveront donc par ce fait dans la plus complète impuissance pour faire exécuter dans ce pays les mesures les plus élémentaires que l'essence même d'un Conseil Sanitaire réclame tout en assumant volontairement sur eux, ainsi que sur leurs Gouvernements respectifs, les graves responsabilités qui peuvent leur incomber par suite de l'apparition d'une épidémie au Moroc et de sa propagation à l'Europe.

C'est donc en vue des considérations antérieures que le Conseil Sanitaire décide à l'unanimité de conseiller aux Gouvernements respectifs, au cas probable où le Makhzen refuserait d'obtempérer à notre dernière demande amicale d'évacuation immédiate de l'Ile de Mogador, d'avoir recours, en dernier lieu, à une démonstration navale collective de toutes les Puissances représentées au Maroc, dont le but serait d'approprier l'Ile de Mogador au service que la civilisation, l'humanité, et le bien public réclament depuis si longtemps, et nous autoriser, en prévoyance de ce refus à adresser un ultimatum au Gouvernement Chériffien en lui fixant un délai pour remettre le Conseil Sanitaire en possession exclusive de l'île.

No. 93.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord,

Tangier, May 1, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 53 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the Kadi of Rabat has been dismissed from his post in consequence of the complaint against him for having ordered the arrest of the Algerian sous-officier, and that he has referred to his Government for instructions as to whether the incident may be considered as closed.

No reply has yet been received from Paris on the subject, and as I understand

the letter of the Vizier communicating the dismissal of the Kadi contained on expressions of regret, it is possible that the French Government may not be satisfied with the mere dismissal of the culpable official.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 94.

Mr. A. de Reya to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

Dear Sir, 21, *Park Road, Clarence Gate, London, N.W., May* 9, 1899.

I ONCE more appeal to your Lordship to consider my claim for compensation from the Moorish Government. How is it possible for me, a sailor, to be guilty when Major Spilsbury, the head of the whole concern, has been acquitted? I sincerely hope that your Lordship will do something for me to give me a start in life again as I am practically a ruined man.

Your very obedient servant,
(Signed) ARTHUR GUY DE REYA.

No. 95.

Foreign Office to Mr. White.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1899.

I HAVE to instruct you to write a letter to Maclean, as if on your own initiative, pointing out that it has been unanimously agreed by the Board of Health to advise the Governments which are represented on the Board to join in a naval demonstration off Mogador, and to take possession of the island by force, if necessary, in order to establish a lazaret upon it.

You should ask Maclean to impress the urgency and danger of the question on the Grand Vizier, and to recommend that the request of the Board of Health should be immediately complied with, by which means further action will probably be avoided. You should add that to take every precaution against the introduction of plague into Morocco is in her own interest.

You should not make any allusion to your colleagues as to this instruction.

A despatch on the subject of the proposed joint action will be sent by next mail.

No 96.

Foreign Office to Mr. A. de Reya.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1899.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, requesting that your claim against the Moorish Government may be reconsidered, and that something may be done to give you a start in life.

In reply, I am to express his Lordship's regret that he is unable to assist you, and I am to inform you that Her Majesty's Government must adhere to the decision already arrived at with regard to your claim, and communicated to you in the letter from this Office of the 22nd November, 1898.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 97.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 10. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 17, 1899.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 27th ultimo, respecting the proposed establishment of a sanitary station at the island of Mogador.

With regard to this question the following points deserve special attention :—

1. There are about 900 or 1,000 prisoners now on the island who would have to be removed to the mainland. Trouble might arise with the guards, though this contingency is improbable; but difficulty would certainly be experienced in peaceably affecting the transfer of the prisoners.

2. As soon as the island shall have been occupied, immediate preparations would be necessary for establishing a sanitary station with tents, doctors, sanitary guards, provisions, and a reservoir for the storage of potable water, if not procurable on the spot. In these matters little assistance could, under the circumstances, be expected from the Moorish authorities; and to provide the above requirements would be an arduous and expensive task.

3. There would be a further difficulty, that of maintaining an efficient quarantine in the face of the sullen hostility of the native authorities.

4. It would be no easy matter to exercise control over several hundred wild and irritated pilgrims, without the co-operation, which would hardly be forthcoming, of the Moorish authorities.

There are other considerations of a political character involved in the proposed seizure of a portion of the Sultan's dominions which cannot be altogether disregarded.

On the other hand, it is possible that the simple threat of an occupation might induce the Moorish Government to grant the Island of Mogador at once to the Board of Health for quarantine purposes. It would be prudent, however, to prepare for the contrary contingency.

I should consequently wish you to obtain from your diplomatic colleagues before Her Majesty's Government can commit itself to any coercive action whatever, information on the following points :—

(*a.*) How is it proposed to deal with the prisoners on the island?

(*b.*) What measures would be taken for supplying the requisite accommodation, equipment, and medical attendance, in the event of the refusal of the Moorish Government to afford any assistance?

(*c.*) From what sources are the funds for these necessaries to be derived?

(*d.*) Is it proposed to retrocede the island when the quarantine season is over?

(*e.*) Is it proposed to retain the ships of war at Mogador during the whole of that period?

(*f.*) Under what kind of control and administration is it proposed to place the island during its occupation as a quarantine station?

In communicating with your colleagues on this subject, you should be careful to avoid any expressions that would enable the Board of Health, or the other Governments represented at Tangier, to attribute to Her Majesty's Government any implicit pledge to use force in any shape with the object of compelling the Shereefian Government to grant the use of the Island of Mogador for the purpose of a quarantine station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 3. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1899.

YOUR telegram No. 68, Confidential, respecting the proposed sanitary station at Mogador Island.

Her Majesty's Government are not at present prepared to agree to any form of coercion

They are awaiting further information as to the whole scheme of the Board of Health.

No. 99.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 59.)
Tangier, May 6, 1899.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that M. de Bacheracht arrived here yesterday in the Russian cruiser on his return from his mission to the Moorish Court.

He appears to be pleased with his reception by the Sultan and Court officials, who showed him marked attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 100.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 60.)
Tangier, May 9, 1899.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, translation of a letter which, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 27th ultimo, I have addressed to the Grand Vizier, requesting that the Moorish Government will grant facilities to Mr. Byrne to trade at Cape Juby as provided in clause 6 of the Agreement of 1895.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Mr. White to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

Tangier, May 9, 1899.

(After compliments.)

A BRITISH subject named Mr. Byrne is desirous of establishing himself at Cape Juby with a view to carrying on trade there, and I have accordingly the honour to request that a piece of ground be allotted to him at that port, in order that he may build thereon such stores and dwelling-house as he may require, as stipulated in the 6th clause of the Agreement entered into on the 16th Ramadan, 1312, between your Excellency and Sir Ernest Satow.

Peace, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 101.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 61.)
Tangier, May 10, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 9 of this date, I have the honour to report that Mr. Gummere, the United States' Consul-General, informs me that since his arrival here about nine months ago he has carefully gone into the various claims of United States' citizens and protégés, and cut down a great number of them. He has also struck off the lists of naturalized United States' citizens many persons who he considered had been wrongly recognized as such, and has also reduced within the narrowest limits the numbers of American protégés. He has found, however, that his action has been misinterpreted by the Moorish Government, and taken as a sign of weakness, and he has consequently found it impossible to obtain a settlement of the cases he had considered it his duty to take up.

Among these cases were the imprisonment of a naturalized United States' citizen by the Governor of Mogador, and the seizure by a country Governor of the cattle and grain belonging to another United States' citizen. Both these cases occurred about two years ago, and, notwithstanding frequent representations, had never been settled.

Considering it useless to discuss them further with the Moorish authorities, Mr. Gummere applied to his Government, and the "Chicago" was sent to support his action. Upon the arrival of the vessel Mr. Gummere put forward a demand for the payment of 2,000 dollars as compensation for the United States' citizen imprisoned at Mogador, and of the value of the property seized by the country Governor.

The local Moorish Commissioner, Cid Ghanan, who was entrusted by the Sultan with the negotiation of these affairs, asked for time to consult the Sultan, but Mr. Gummere refused to accede to this request, and insisted on the payment being completed within twenty-four hours. This firmness had the desired effect, and the money was at once paid.

The presence of the "Chicago" being no longer required, she left yesterday afternoon for Zanzibar and Madagascar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 102.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 10. Commercial.)
Tangier, May 11, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 27th ultimo, regarding the establishment of a lazaret on Mogador Island for pilgrims returning from the Hedjaz, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Dr. Cortes, the medical officer of the Sanitary Council, returned a short time since from his visit to Mogador, and reported that the "Oomana," or Customs Administrators, of that port had refused him all co-operation, on the grounds that they had received no instructions on the subject from the Court. He had, nevertheless, thoroughly examined the island, and had no hesitation in reporting that the portion offered by the Moorish Government is totally inadequate for the establishment of a lazaret, and that it is absolutely indispensable to have the whole island.

The German Minister, as President of the Sanitary Council, has now received a reply to the letter he addressed the Vizier on the 6th March, translation of which was transmitted to your Lordship in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 8, Commercial, of the 7th March. I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of the Vizier's letter, in which, in direct contradiction to the report of Dr. Cortes, his Excellency states that the Administrators at Mogador had, in concert with him, chosen a site for the lazaret on Mogador Island, and that orders had been given for its preparation. The Vizier appears to consider that the question is thus closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Baron Schenck.

(Traduction.)
(Après compliments.)
Le 28 *Cada*, 1316 (*le* 9 *Avril*, 1899).

J'AI reçu votre lettre par laquelle vous m'informez que lorsque le Représentant Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres vous a présenté la réponse du Makhzen à l'effet de prendre une décision, et de désigner l'emplacement suffisant pour loger les pèlerins dans l'Ile de Mogador en conformité du plan qu'il vous a présenté, le Dr. Cortes est parti dans le but d'examiner l'emplacement indiqué; néanmoins, vous craignez toujours que la communication ne soit pas suffisamment complète entre l'endroit où les pèlerins seront logés, et l'endroit occupé par d'autres dans l'île susdite. Vous me demandez d'y avoir soin afin qu'il n'arrive pas dans cet Empire heureux des traces des maladies dont vous avez appris l'existence.

Nous avons porté cela à la connaissance de notre Maître, qui en a pris note, et il m'a ordonné de vous répondre les faits suivants: le Makhzen n'a pas négligé de faire le nécessaire dans le cas dont il s'agit, et il a eu grand soin, ainsi qu'il l'a écrit aux Oomana du port de Mogador, de préparer un endroit pour loger les pèlerins conformément aux instructions qui ont été données par l'entremise du Représentant Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres. Les susdits Administrateurs ont répondu que le Dr. Cortes est arrivé à Mogador,

et qu'ils se sont occupés avec lui du choix d'un emplacement dans l'Ile de Mogador afin de le préparer pour y loger les pèlerins, ils l'ont désigné et l'ordre précis leur a été donné de le préparer, et de s'en occuper sérieusement. De cette façon termine l'exécution de l'ordre qui doit être donné pour cette affaire.

Salut.

(Signé) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 103.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May* 23, 1899.

THE repetition of the telegram your Lordship sent on the subject of a station at Mogador is what we desire.

No. 104.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 107. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, May* 19, 1899.

YESTERDAY Señor Silvela introduced the question of Morocco, asking me the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I replied that your Lordship would, I thought, see great objection to any step that might precipitate a crisis in that country. It would raise innumerable claims and pretentions and lead, perhaps, to much disturbance. Her Majesty's Government would listen with sympathy to communications on this or on any subject from the Spanish Government. Both countries had interests in Morocco on which Her Majesty's Government would, if the occasion arose, interchange views with the Spanish Government with a feeling of friendship and confidence.

If the crisis were inevitable nothing should be done to hasten it, but it was to be hoped that such an event would be removed to as distant a future as possible.

His Excellency quite agreed with this view, but he said that within the last few days he had received from the Spanish Minister at Tangier, Señor Ojeda, a communication which somewhat alarmed him. The foreign Representatives had been pressing on the Sultan's Government the urgency of establishing at Mogador a lazaretto to guard against the introduction of the bubonic plague by the pilgrims returning from the Hedjaz. To this communication the Moorish authorities had shown themselves indifferent, and it was now proposed to make a joint representation to be followed by a naval demonstration.

Such an act his Excellency considered of a nature to produce the very crisis which your Lordship deprecated He was anxious, therefore, that I should at once submit the question to your Lordship's consideration.

Señor Silvela did not inform me, and indeed he did not seem to know, from what quarter the proposal had originated. But he said it was generally discussed at Tangier, and that the Spanish Minister had asked for instructions accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I understand the idea of a naval demonstration was suggested by the success which attended some vigorous action on the part of the United States' cruiser "Chicago."

H. D. W.

No. 105.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 27.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 19, 1899.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 28 of the 4th March, I have the honour to report that news has reached me from a private source at the Court to the effect that Sid Mahommed-el-Amrani, who is in command of the Shereefian troops in the neighbourhood of Tafilet, has succeeded in settling the disputes between the Shereefs, and that the Vizier is consequently sending strong reinforcements from the tribes upon which the Government can rely to join El-Amrani, who will be ordered to punish the rebel tribes when he can do so without risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 106.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 27.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 19, 1899.

I HEAR from a private source at the Court that Moorish officers just returned from the Algerian frontier state that great numbers of the 2,000 soldiers sent by the Sultan last year to the frontier have deserted to Algeria; the French guards having orders to give them passes to enable them to go on at once to Tlemsen where they are well received by the French authorities who find employment for them either as soldiers or on the railway or farms. As it is generally known among the Shereefian troops on the frontier that deserters are welcomed and well treated by the French authorities in Algeria, my informant anticipates that unless the force is withdrawn there will shortly be no soldiers left.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 107.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 5.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 26, 1899.

RUMOURS have lately been current that Kaïd Guilooly's troops had met with a reverse in the Sûs, and that his position was becoming critical. These reports have been to some extent confirmed by news that has just reached me from a private source at the Court.

It appears that Basha Hammso of Mequinez, who is at present Acting Governor of Tarudant, has reported to the Court that several of the tribes in that neighbourhood who had been considered loyal were showing signs of disaffection, and seemed inclined to join the rebels. He therefore asked for reinforcements to consist of 500 horse and 2,000 foot soldiers.

The news is evidently regarded in a serious light at the Court, as the Government intends to dispatch these reinforcements immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 109.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1899.*

THE German Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon at considerable length with respect to the desirability of concerted action between Germany and England if questions which interest them both arose.

I replied that there had never been on the part of this country any feeling other than a wish to act in concert with the German Empire wherever our interests permitted us to do so.

His Excellency then spoke especially about Morocco. I replied that I was not aware that the question of Morocco had become in any sense a burning question. Her Majesty's Government had no desire with respect to it, but that the *status quo* should be indefinitely maintained. But they felt an interest in the ownership of the Atlantic seaboard, and if by any untoward event it ceased to belong to the Empire of Morocco, Great Britain could not with indifference see it pass under any other dominion.

I asked his Excellency what the views of the German Government were with respect to Morocco, as he had raised the question. He said he did not know, but he thought it very desirable that there should be an exchange of views and ideas on the subject, whenever action should become pressing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 109.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 83. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1899.*

THE Spanish Ambassador asked me what my views were with respect to Morocco, as to which his Government was becoming somewhat nervous. I said that the views of Her Majesty's Government could be very shortly stated. We were earnestly in favour of maintaining the *status quo*, and we should do all that we could to maintain that condition of things. We were aware that several countries had nourished designs with respect to the territory of Morocco. For ourselves, we have not consented to contemplate the fall of that empire, but, if it should take place, we could not see points on the Atlantic littoral pass under the dominion of any other Power. We hope they may permanently remain under the control of the Moorish Empire, but if that dominion should cease, the interest of Her Majesty's Government in the ownership of such places would become acute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 110.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 2, 1899.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that news has reached me from two independent private sources at the Court to the effect that French agents are active in Tafilet in endeavouring to bring that district under French influence.

It is stated that an offer of French protection was made to the tribes at Tafilet, but was declined by them, as they prefer to remain under Moorish rule. It is further reported that the Viceroy of Tafilet, Mulai Rashid, has also been offered French protection, and that he has not yet returned a definite reply, as he is waiting to learn the intentions of the Moorish Government before deciding on the course he should himself adopt.

I understand that Sid Mahommed-el-Amrani, who is in command of the Shereefian troops, is short of provisions, and has informed the Court that the Tafilet tribes will remain loyal if His Shereefian Majesty will leave them in peace as previous Sultans have done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 111.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 3, 1899.*

UPON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 10, Commercial, of the 17th ultimo respecting the proposed establishment of a Sanitary station at Mogador Island, I addressed a letter to the President of the Sanitary Council acquainting him with the points upon which your Lordship desired information, and requesting him to call a meeting to discuss them.

A meeting was accordingly held on the 27th ultimo, and I took an early opportunity of informing the members of the Council that, before deciding whether any coercive action should be taken, or whether it was desirable to hold out a threat of such action, it was necessary to look forward to see what it might lead us to, and that, therefore, Her Majesty's Government, before considering the matter, desired information on the points which I had mentioned in my letter to the President.

The several points were then discussed at some length, various suggestions being made by different members of the Council; and at a subsequent meeting held on the 29th ultimo, a *procès-verbal* was drawn up embodying the proposals which met with general acceptance, although I felt myself obliged to observe that I did not consider that they overcame all the difficulties which might arise.

I beg to transmit herewith copy of the *procès-verbal*. The Report of Dr. Cortes referred to therein has not yet been presented. I understand that it is rather lengthy, and that delay has arisen through the preparation of the drawings and plans that accompany it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Procès-verbal of Meetings of the Sanitary Council of the 27th and 29th May, 1899.

Présidence de M. von PILGRIM BALTAZZI, Chargé d'Affaires d'Allemagne.

Étaient présents :

M. le Comte Crenneville, Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie.
M. Anspach, Ministre de Belgique.
M. de Ojeda, Ministre d'Espagne.
Mr. Lilly, représentant le Consul-Général des États-Unis d'Amérique.
M. de la Martinière, Chargé d'Affaires de France.
Mr. White, Chargé d'Affaires de la Grande-Bretagne.
M. Malmusi, Ministre d'Italie.
M. de Quillinan, Gérant du Consulat-Général de Portugal.
M. Bacheracht, Ministre de Russie.

Discussion de l'Ordre du Jour.

RÉPONSE aux différentes questions posées par le Gouvernement Britannique et qui envisagent certaines éventualités qui pourraient se présenter si, le Makhzen ayant refusé de céder au Conseil la totalité de l'Ile de Mogador, les Puissances se voyaient obligées d'en prendre possession.

Après différentes suggestions émises par les membres du Conseil, les mesures suivantes ont été proposées en réponse aux questions posées :—

1re Question. Que propose-t-on de faire des prisonniers qui sont détenus à présent dans l'île ?

Après avoir pris possession de l'île on sommerait le Gouverneur de Mogador de recevoir les prisonniers.

En cas de refus, deux procédés pourraient être employés :

Ou bien on débarquerait les prisonniers sur la plage, et si le Gouverneur refusait de les nourrir, on assurerait leur subsistance sur place, ou bien au moyen des provisions apportées par les navires.

Ou bien on embarquerait les prisonniers sur des transports envoyés à cet effet; ils y resteraient jusqu'à ce que le Makhzen ait pris une décision à leur sujet.

Les frais divers occasionnés par ces mesures seraient remboursés par le Makhzen.

2e Question. Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Chérifien refuserait son concours, quelles mesures prendra-t-on pour pourvoir au logement, à l'équipement, et au service médical ?

Toutes les réponses à ces différents points se trouvent dans le Rapport du Dr. Cortes et dans les plans qui sont à l'étude en ce moment et qui vont prochainement être terminés.

Comme la ville ne fournit pas des ressources suffisantes pour alimenter à la fois les prisonniers et les équipages des bateaux qui seraient envoyés, il seraient nécessaire que les provisions fussent apportées par les navires.

3e Question. D'où viendront les fonds nécessaires pour faire face aux dépenses ?

Le Gouvernement Marocain sera sollicité de rembourser les frais effectués.

Suivant les précédents, les avances pourraient être faites par une maison de banque de Tanger sous la garantie des membres du Corps Diplomatique autorisés respectivement par leurs Gouvernements.

4e Question. Propose-t-on de rétrocéder l'île à la fin de la saison du pèlerinage ?

L'île restera à la disposition du Conseil Sanitaire, qui ne cessera de l'administrer sous la souveraineté du Sultan et à ses frais.

Si l'île était rétrocédée, il serait difficile d'en entrer en possession de nouveau.

5e Question. Se propose-t-on de retenir les bateaux de guerre à Mogador durant toute la saison du pèlerinage ?

Cette décision dépendra des circonstances. Le chef de l'escadre sera juge du temps nécessaire.

Du reste, la manifestation terminée un seul bateau sera suffisant, selon toutes probabilités.

6e Question. Sous quel genre de contrôle et sous quelle forme d'administration propose-t-on placer l'île durant son occupation par le service quarantenaire ?

L'île sera administrée comme précédemment par le Conseil Sanitaire agissant au nom du Sultan.

Mr. White tout en déclarant qu'il ne trouve pas de solution entièrement satisfaisante, estime que les divers moyens proposés ne sont pas de nature à surmonter toutes les difficultés qui pourraient survenir.

No. 112.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 16. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 13, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13, Commercial, of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the *procès-verbal* of a recent meeting of the Sanitary Council, when the Italian Minister informed his colleagues that his Government had suggested to the Powers that a delegation of one or more members of the Council should visit the Shereefian Court to continue the negotiations for the Island of Mogador.

The Russian Minister observed that his Government considered that unanimity was necessary for the adoption of any coercive measures, and that as that was not attainable, they had accepted the proposal of the Italian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Declaration by M. Malmusi.

EN réponse à mes communications relatives au pèleringage et au lazaret de Mogador, son Excellence M. Visconti-Venosta constate que les délibérations du Conseil Sanitaire portent à des résolutions assez graves, et dont il est difficile de prévoir les conséquences.

Son Excellence ajoute qu'à son avis tous les moyens de persuasion n'ont peut-être pas été épuisés, et qu'on pourrait encore envoyer à la Cour Chérifienne un ou plusieurs Délégués du Conseil Sanitaire pour continuer les négociations.

M. de Bacheracht : Au nom de mon Gouvernement je me rallie à cette proposition.

Après un exchange de vues les autres membres du Conseil se bornent à déclarer qu'ils n'ont pas reçu d'instructions de leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

No. 113.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 17. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 15, 1899.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 3, Commercial, of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed by the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, as President of the Sanitary Council, informing him that orders have been given for removing all the prisoners from Mogador Island in order that it may be left empty for the returning pilgrims to undergo quarantine there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Cid Torres to Count de Crenneville.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 5 *Safar*, 1317 (*June* 14, 1899).

WE inform your Excellency that Shereefian orders have been issued to the Makhzen authorities at the port of Mogador to remove the prisoners from the island to another place, in order that the island may remain empty for the landing of the pilgrims.

We inform you of this that you may authorize the Steam-ship Companies to carry the pilgrims to the said island.

Please reply. Peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 114.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1899.

I HAVE received your Memorandum of the 19th instant relating to the proposed Moorish Mission to this country, and I should wish you to take an opportunity of conveying my thanks to Kaïd Maclean for the very satisfactory manner in which he has carried out my wishes with regard to the postponement of this project.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 23, 1899.

REPORTS that reach me from a private source at the Court continue to give an unsatisfactory account of the state of the tribes south of the Atlas, from the Algerian frontier to the Atlantic.

It appears to be very difficult even for those residing at Morocco city to elicit the true facts among the many conflicting rumours that reach the Court, but I gather that there can be little doubt as to the existence of French intrigues in the Tafilett district, and that the offer of French protection against the rapacity of the Government affords a tempting bait to the tribes. Earlier reports were to the effect that the tribes desired to remain loyal if they could do so at not too great a cost to themselves, but the news now reaching Morocco city indicates that some at any rate are accepting the offered protection.

In Sus, also, the position of affairs would seem to be getting worse. A Moorish Colonel who has just returned to the Court after taking reinforcements to Sus reports that the tribes are in a very unsettled state and that unless the Sultan at once sends further reinforcements and some mountain guns, the consequences may be serious. He recommended that instructions be given to the officers in command of the troops to be firm but conciliatory in their treatment of the tribes.

I understand that the Vizier is acting on this recommendation and that mountain guns with a good supply of ammunition are being prepared for dispatch to the Sus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 116.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 26, 1899.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 27th February, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of the Vizier's reply to the collective note regarding the M'zab claims, copy of which was inclosed in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 19 of the 15th February.

In this letter the Vizier attributes the delay in the settlement of these claims to the merchants' refusal to accept a composition, although the amounts are exaggerated, and to the Consular officers not supporting the proposals for compromise made by the Moorish authorities, whereas those who have accepted a compromise have already been paid. His Excellency adds that fresh instructions have been issued to the Governor of Dar-al-Baida to report more fully as to the cause of the delay, and to endeavour to persuade the merchants to accept a compromise, and he requests the Representatives to instruct their Consular officers in the same sense.

At a recent meeting of the Diplomatic Body the opportunity was taken to discuss the steps that should next be taken in connection with these claims. The Vizier's letter was considered very unsatisfactory, as he entirely ignores the request in the collective note that precise orders be immediately given for the payment without delay of the amounts claimed, and also warning that otherwise an additional claim would be made for damages. The failure of the Moorish Government to pay foreign claimants is more unwarrantable, as it appears that the non-protected claimants have already received payment, as, indeed, the Vizier himself admits in his letter, though private reports from Casablanca do not bear out his Excellency's statement as to the reductions made, it being alleged that, in some cases at any rate, exaggerated compensation has been given.

On the proposition of the Spanish Minister, the present doyen, it was decided that he should reply to the Vizier in the name of the Diplomatic Body confirming the terms of the preceding note, and repeating the demand for the immediate payment of the claims, adding that, in accordance with the concluding paragraph of that note, interest

would be added to the amount of the claims, after the expiration of forty-five days from the delivery of the present note.

I beg to transmit herewith copy of the letter drafted by M. de Ojeda and approved by all the Representatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to the Corps Diplomatique at Tangier.

(Traduction.)
(Après les compliments d'usage.) 29 *Heddja*, 1316 (*le* 8 *Mai*, 1899).

J'AI reçu la lettre par laquelle vous m'avez fait part des informations qui vous ont été envoyées par vos Consuls à Casablanca, au sujet de l'inefficacité de la discussion du règlement des réclamations de vos négociants relatives à l'affaire de la Kasbah de M'zab et du préjudice subi par ces derniers du fait des lenteurs apportées dans cette question. Vous demandez l'accélération du règlement et le paiement intégral, &c.

J'ai porté ce qui précède à la connaissance de notre Seigneur (que Dieu le fortifie !) qui en a pris bonne note et m'ordonne de vous répondre que la cause de ces lenteurs vient de ce que les négociants refusent d'accepter des arrangements dans leurs réclamations respectives, et veulent seulement être payés de toutes les sommes qu'ils ont inscrites eux-mêmes. Cependant les gens qui font le commerce avec cette Kasbah se connaissent entre eux ; chacun d'eux sait la quantité de marchandises qui circule entre les mains de son concurrent et témoigne de ce qu'il sait sur lui. De plus, les habitants du pays et le Gouverneur de la Kasbah lui-même connaissent parfaitement de nom et de vue chacun d'eux ainsi que sa capacité commerciale.

Un des motifs de ce retard est aussi le refus opposé par vos Consuls de soutenir les arrangements qu'on leur propose en ce qui concerne les demandes des négociants, car ceux qui ont accepté des arrangements et sont entrés dans la voie de la conciliation ont eu leurs affaires entièrement réglées ainsi que l'a fait connaître le Gouverneur de Casablanca.

En tout cas celui-ci a reçu de nouvelles instructions l'invitant à exposer les causes de ce retard, à donner sur les faits des explications plus détaillées, et à rechercher les moyens d'obtenir des négociants qu'ils soient conciliants de telle façon qu'il n'y ait aucun préjudice de part et d'autre. J'ai confiance que vous prêterez également votre assistance en écrivant à vos Consuls en vue d'assurer les moyens de conciliation afin que tous les négociants ayant droit reçoivent ce qui leur est dû.

(Signé) AHMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.
(Que Dieu le favorise !)

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Draft of Letter to be addressed to the Grand Vizier.

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

LES Représentants qui ont souscrit la lettre que je t'ai adressée en date du 24 Février ont été saisis par moi de la réponse que tu as transmise par l'intermédiaire du Ministre d'Allemagne en date du 29 Heddja, 1316.

Les Représentants susdits après avoir examiné ta lettre attentivement, sont d'avis qu'elle ne donne aucune satisfaction à la demande que nous t'avions adressée et que, par suite, la situation où nos justes réclamations pour le pillage du M'zab se trouvent aujourd'hui, est exactement la même que lorsque nous t'avions dernièrement écrit à ce sujet.

Les Représentants m'ont donc chargé de te faire savoir qu'ils ratifient et maintiennent tout ce qu'ils t'ont écrit dans la dernière note et te prient de vouloir bien donner au plus tôt les ordres afin que les autorités de Casablanca remboursent à nos ressortissants les sommes dont tu as reçu en temps et lieu la spécification la plus complète.

Mes collègues me chargent en outre de te communiquer que conséquemment à leur décision antérieure, contenue dans le dernier paragraphe de notre note collective, trois ans s'étant déjà écoulés en vaine attente de notre part, nous avons résolu d'accorder au Maghzen un délai de quarante-cinq jours à partir d'aujourd'hui pour le réglement définitif de cette affaire, après lequel le Maghzen devra payer à nos ressortissants les intérêts légaux correspondant à la somme réclamée par chacun d'eux.

Paix.

(Signé) E. OJEDA.

No. 117.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No 72.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 1, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from the Grand Vizier in reply to that I addressed him on the 9th May, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 60 of that date, requesting his Excellency to grant facilities to Mr. Byrne to trade at Cape Juby, as provided in clause 6 of the Agreement of 1895.

The Vizier's reply is very similar to those sent to previous applications, the necessary preparations have not yet been made; when they are completed this Legation will be duly informed, but in the meantime, merchants cannot establish themselves in business at Cape Juby.

The Moorish Government is evidently very unwilling to open Cape Juby to trade, and to permit Europeans to establish themselves there; it will therefore continue to put off giving effect to the 6th clause of the Agreement as long as it is permitted to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 7 *Safar*, 1317 (*June* 16, 1899).

WE have received your letter stating that Mr. Byrne, a British subject, desires to open a house of business at Cape Juby, and that he requests that a site be allotted to him there, to build a business house and the necessary stores. We brought this to the knowledge of our Lord (compliments), and he took note of it and commanded me to reply to you that the Makhzen is greatly engrossed and eager about all that brings advantage from this to its treasury, but that the arrangements in that region to trade are contingent upon populating it, so that there may be the fullest security of persons, merchandize, &c., such as the caravans coming and going, as is not hidden.

It is well known that it is not easy to make the necessary arrangements for this object, but that, on the contrary, it is necessary to give care to important matters, and much time is necessary for this. The Makhzen ceases not to give attention to this, and when the necessary measures are prepared, you will be informed thereof by the power of Allah.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 118.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1899.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 131 of the 27th September, 1898, I have the honour to report that, having observed in the press a statement that one of the Sultan's steamers was to convey building materials to Arksis for the

construction of custom-house stores, &c., I took an opportunity of inquiring of the Moorish Commissioner, Cid Benasser Ghannam, this morning whether there was any truth in the report.

His Excellency replied that he was not aware of such orders having been given, but that the scheme of opening Arksis to trade had not been abandoned by the Moorish Government, who were engaged in making the preliminary arrangements.

I observed that the opening of a port in Sûs would be a very wise step, which could not fail to be of advantage to the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 119.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1899.

A RUMOUR has been current for some days past that a son had been born to the Sultan, but I have been unable to obtain any confirmation of the report until to-day. Now, however, I learn that the news is true, and that the young Prince has been named Mulai Hassan.

The birth of an heir to the throne in the direct line will, it is expected, strengthen the Sultan's position.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 120.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 59.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 71 of the 26th ultimo inclosing a translation of the Vizier's reply to the collective note addressed to him with regard to the McZab claims, together with a draft of a note which it has been decided that the doyen of the Diplomatic Body shall forward to him on the subject.

Your action as reported in that despatch has my approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 121.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 9, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, which I have just received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting a question which has arisen between himself and the Governor of Sifroo, a town on the hills about 25 miles distant from Fez, where some English missionary ladies generally spend the summer.

The missionaries rent their house from a Sifroo Moor named Bu Sharib, and, on Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod's strong recommendation, an agent's certificate was issued to him in April last. Under Article IX of the Madrid Convention of 1880 Moorish subjects holding these certificates cannot be arrested without previous notice to the employer through his authority. Before, however, the certificate reached Bu Sharib he was arrested and cast into prison by order of the Kaïd Omar of Sifroo, who was at the time on his way to Morocco City, having been summoned to the Court.

On the 24th May, on the return from Tangier of the missionary, whose agent Bu Sharib was, Mr. Macleod applied to the Khalifa, or Acting Governor, of Fez for the man's release, and obtained a letter from the Viceroy to the Khalifa of Sifroo, who,

however, sent no reply. Another letter obtained from the Viceroy remaining also without a reply, Mr. Macleod went in person to Sifroo and delivered a third letter from the Viceroy. To this letter the Khalifa replied that he had referred the matter to Kaïd Omar for instructions, and he informed Mr. Macleod that Bu Sharib was innocent of any offence and had been imprisoned for displeasing the Kaïd, adding that he was a personal friend of his, but that he dared not release him without orders from the Kaïd, to whom he had sent an express courier on receipt of the Viceroy's first letter.

On the 1st July, Kaïd Omar being then near Fez on his return from Court, Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod delivered in person another letter to the Khalifa of Fez, informing him that he had learnt that Bu Sharib had been loaded with chains in a most cruel manner, and demanding his immediate release. The Khalifa was loud in his condemnation of Kaïd Omar's conduct, and reported the matter to the Viceroy, who communicated with Kaïd Omar. Two days' later, no reply having been made by the Kaïd, Mr. Macleod, believing it was his intention to torture the unfortunate man to death, again wrote to the Khalifa of Fez warning him that if the prisoner died Her Majesty's Government would demand the execution of Kaïd Omar. On the following day, the Viceroy addressed a further letter to Kaïd Omar requesting explanations, and at length, on the 6th July, the Kaïd replied stating that Bu Sharib was in the Government service, and had made away with property that had been entrusted to him. This reply was communicated to Mr. Macleod, who replied declining to accept the Kaïd's statement and insisting on Bu Sharib's immediate release.

Mr. Macleod requests me to obtain Bu Sharib's release and also the punishment of Kaïd Omar and of his Khalifa, and has forwarded to me this despatch by express courier, as the unfortunate prisoner is still undergoing barbarous treatment.

Much as I desire to support Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in this matter, not only for political reasons—for want of support will, I fear, to some extent lower his prestige in the eyes of the Moorish officials with whom he has to deal—but also for motives of humanity, I feel that the case in one of some difficulty, and that I should not be justified in taking action in it without instructions from your Lordship.

No representation I could make to any Moorish official at Tangier would have the slightest effect, and under the circumstances it is improbable that a letter to the Vizier would procure Bu Sharib's immediate release, and certainly not the Kaïd's punishment, unless couched in stronger terms than I could use without your Lordship's authority.

Had the arrest been effected after the Kaïd had received notice of the issue of the certificate of agency, a distinct breach of Treaty would have been committed, and our right to demand Bu Sharib's release would have been clear; but unfortunately the man was already in prison when the Khalifa of Fez was informed of the issue of the certificate, and therefore it appears to me that we have, strictly speaking, no right to interfere.

I have therefore informed Mr. Macleod that I am referring the matter to your Lordship, and am instructing him in the meantime to abstain from holding out any threats, or making any representation to the Moorish authorities in the name of Her Majesty's Government. I beg to inclose herewith copy of my despatch containing these instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 21.)

Sir, *Fez, July* 6, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 6 of the 4th April, inclosing an agency certificate in favour of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib.

On the 12th April, I duly advised the Khalifa Benshocron here of the issue of that certificate, and I understand he informed the Khalifa of Sifroo thereof.

Meanwhile, however, Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi, Governor of Sifroo, had been summoned to the Shereefian Court, and on the eve of his departure, Bu Shareb asked him quite civilly and humbly to pay him about 120 dollars' worth of provender consumed by animals of the Kaïd which had been billeted upon Bu Sharib, and for a supply of provender to be left with him for their support during the Kaïd's absence.

The Kaïd replied curtly, "It is all right, I will attend to this;" but instead of doing this, he sent from Fez, on his way to Morocco City, to Sifroo an order for Bu Sharib to be imprisoned.

This was done.

As the certificate, although awaited, had not arrived, I could not at that moment demand the prisoner's release; and, indeed, I was studiously careful not to do so until a few weeks had elapsed, and the discrepancy between the date of the imprisonment and the arrival of the prisoner's certificate would pass unobserved.

Miss Mellett (Bu Sharib's employer) was at Tangier for some weeks, so, on her return on the 24th May, I complained to the Acting Governor of Fez on the subject.

In response, he procured a letter from the Viceroy to the Khalifa of Sifroo on the subject.

To that the Khalifa, however, refused to give any reply whatever, so the Viceroy's soldier returned empty-handed.

On the 31st May I again addressed the Khalifa of Fez on the matter, and the Viceroy again wrote to the Khalifa of Sifroo, who again declined to reply.

I again remonstrated, and on the 12th June I went myself to Sifroo, and, with a soldier of the Viceroy, delivered a third letter to the Khalifa from his Highness.

I had an interview with the Khalifa in which he seemed considerably embarrassed.

He protested that the prisoner was innocent of any offence and was, moreover, a friend of his own and had been imprisoned only for displeasing Kaïd Omar—but without the latter's order he dared not release him.

Next day, after considerable pressure, he replied to the Viceroy, referring the whole question to Kaïd Omar.

The Sifroo Khalifa, however, said he had sent an express courier to Kaïd Omar on receipt of the Viceroy's first letter, and he was expecting a favourable reply from day-to-day.

Simultaneously, from other quarters, I learnt that Kaïd Omar was on his way back to Sifroo, so I waited till he arrived near Fez, and on the 1st July I again addressed the Khalifa of Fez on the subject.

Next morning, however, we learned that instead of being released, the prisoner had on the afternoon of the 1st July been loaded with chains and fetters. This was Kaïd Omar's reply to our first remonstrance.

Two sets of fetters were attached to his ankles. Three iron collars, with heavy chains attached, were put on his neck and hands and fixed to the wall in such a way that the prisoner was left with his arms extended and unable to sit down, or even to perform the usual offices of nature.

I added to my letter a paragraph detailing this latest act and delivered it in person to the Khalifa of Fez at once, at the same time demanding verbally and in the strongest terms the immediate release of the prisoner. The Khalifa protested (and I believe quite sincerely) that the whole affair was shameful in the last degree, that Kaïd Omar and his Khalifa had not deigned to give him or the Viceroy a single word or line of explanation of their conduct, and from his own experience he knew that malignity and oppression alone were at the root of the matter.

The Khalifa Benshocron forthwith informed the Viceroy, who in turn communicated with Kaïd Omar.

The Kaïd Omar did not reply, although the Viceroy's soldier waited all that day and all the next (Monday, the 3rd July).

On the 3rd instant, no reply having reached me, and as it was clear Kaïd Omar's intention was to torture the prisoner to death, by way of bravado and affront to us, I again wrote to the Khalifa of Fez in, to him, civil terms, but warning him that the British Government would, if the prisoner died, demand the execution of Kaïd Omar in retribution thereof.

Towards a man of Kaïd Omar's ferocious character, and with such ready means of raising any ordinary sum of money, remonstrance or even threats of indemnities would, I felt sure, be mere waste of time and words. Moreover, in view of the malignant cruelty displayed, the affront designedly put upon us in torturing a prisoner in whose favour we had intervened, and that he had boasted in the most open manner to dozens of visitors to his camp since he arrived, that he cares not a jot for either the Viceroy or the Khalifa of Fez or the English, I felt sure you would approve of the attitude assumed in the matter, and that the Sultan, when, as I cannot but anticipate will be the case, informed by Her Majesty's Government of this outrage upon mutual good relations and common humanity as well as the breach of Treaty committed in the continued imprisonment and torture of the prisoner, will punish Kaïd Omar most severely.

On the evening of the 3rd I again visited the Khalifa of Fez, and without much demur he promised to see the Viceroy on the subject next morning.

He did so, and His Highness sent Kaïd Omar further requests for explanation.

This I verified by myself seeing his soldier waiting in Kaïd Omar's camp, just outside Fez, for an answer.

In the forenoon on the 4th news reached us that the prisoner had fainted under his chains, and in response to the entreaties of his friends, the Khalifa had removed two of the chains, and had given him an old box to sit upon, and had at once informed Kaïd Omar of this, whereupon the latter immediately ordered the chains to be replaced.

This was done on the evening of the 4th instant, and shortly afterwards it was reported that the prisoner's wife was to be thrown into the women's prison at Sifroo and his house barred up. As yet, however, these two threats have not been carried out.

I informed the Khalifa, Benshocron, personally, and also, in writing, of these events, and he urgently called the Viceroy's attention to them.

The only answer His Highness got, however, was a verbal message that he (Kaïd Omar) would answer Benshocron "when he went." But whether that means when he goes to Sifroo or to his house here in Fez or what else, neither the Viceroy nor the Khalifa Benshocron seems to know.

They are both, I believe, sincere in their indignation over the contemptuous insolence of Omar's attitude towards them as well as towards us, but without an order from the Sultan they cannot seize him, and arresting him and liberating the prisoner seem the only remedies left.

From Kaïd Omar's remarks to people who have seen him during the last few days, it appears that his ulterior object is to force Miss Mellett and Miss Denison to leave Sifroo, and he expects to attain that object by such ill-usage of their landlord, Bu Sharib, as will cause them for pity's sake to give up the house.

He has not, however, made any offer to release the man on terms, but even if he did so, I am very certain that if these ladies leave Sifroo he would very soon be persecuting Bu Sharib again, and so I should not listen to such a proposal.

The prisoner is being fed and attended to by an old woman related to him, the rest of his family having fled to Fez.

Meanwhile, I will not relax my efforts towards obtaining the prisoner's release, but I have very little hope now of Kaïd Omar's relenting.

So I beg to advise you by this express messenger of the position of the case, and to express the hope that in addition to the prisoner's release being granted, such punishment may speedingly be inflicted on Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi and his Khalifa Mulai-el-Adluni, as, in your opinion, they may appear to deserve.

I have the honour to inclose copies and translations of the correspondence on this case with the Khalifa Benshocron, including Kaïd Omar's reply, which has just been received, and of my rejoinder to it, saying that we cannot discuss what he alleges now.

It should have been, even if true, stated by his Khalifa or himself six weeks ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, April* 12, 1899 (29 *Koda*, 1316).

TO the list of persons Mokhalatin with British subjects here please add the name of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, of Sifroo, who is in partnership with the doctress, Miss Mellett, in respect of cattle.

Peace. Friendship.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, May* 24, 1899 (14 *Moharram*, 1317).

THE English doctress, Miss Mellett, of Sifroo, has complained to me that Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, a Sifriwi, and her partner, of whom I have written you, has been seized by the Khalifa of Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi and imprisoned there.

I have inquired carefully, and do not find any cause for his arrest, and I hope you will write to the Khalifa enjoining him to release the prisoner without delay, without fail, without fail. And an answer please.

The end.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, May* 31, 1899 (21 *Moharram*, 1317).

WITH reference to the imprisonment of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, at Sifroo, I have to say that the Khalifa there refused to give a written answer to the letter you were so good as to send him on the subject.

I have heard, however, that he has sent a courier to Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi asking for instructions.

As Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi is now at the Court, several weeks must elapse before his answer can come, and we cannot agree to such a delay.

So I beg you to refer the matter to his Highness the Viceroy to the end that the Khalifa of Sifroo be ordered to release the prisoner without further delay.

Peace.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 121.

The Acting Governor of Fez to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(After compliments.) 25 *Moharram*, 1317 (*June* 4, 1899).

YOUR letter reached me regarding the affair of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, Mokhalat of the English doctress, requesting a letter (to the Khalifa of Sifroo) on the matter.

We have written the same.

The end.

(Signed) ABDELMEDJID BENSHOCRON.
(God be gracious to him.)

Inclosure 6 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, July* 1, 1899.

WITH reference to the affair of the British Mokhalat, Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, of Sifroo, who was imprisoned by Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi, the Khalifa of Sifroo, told me a few days ago that for his part he was willing to liberate the said Mokhalat, but could not do so until the Kaïd's order came. Kaïd Omar has now returned to this neighbourhood, so I beg you to procure the prisoner's release with the least possible loss of time, without fail.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—After writing the foregoing to you, news has reached us from Sifroo that Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi instead of liberating the prisoner has commanded his Khalifa to put

on him two sets of fetters and three chains, and to hang him upon the wall so that he cannot sit, and it is said he is to be "toffed" * round the town to-morrow. So I pray you to give me a letter for the Khalifa of Sifroo to remove these irons, and another letter to Kaïd Omar to release the aforesaid prisoner and to take care that he does not interfere on any account with any of the prisoner's family or friends. And I await your answer from hour to hour. The end.

J. M. M.

Inclosure 7 in No. 121.

The Acting Governor of Fez to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(After compliments.) 23 *Safar*, 1317 (*July* 2, 1899).

YOUR letter reached me regarding the affair of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, of Sifroo, Mokhalat of the English doctress, requesting a letter (to the Khalifa of Sifroo) on the matter.

We have written the same to him and when the mounted soldier comes from our Lord the Viceroy, I will send him to you. The end.

(Signed) ABDELMEDGID BENSHOCRON.
(God be gracious to him.)

Inclosure 8 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, July* 3, 1899 (22 *Safar*, 1317).

YOUR answer reached me stating that you had written to the Governor of Sifroo, Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi and to his Deputy, ordering them to liberate the prisoner Hadj-al-Arbi Bu Sharib. May God bring you prosperity. Thank you.

And now I learn that the said Governor has reached Fez, so I beg you most earnestly (for it is of the utmost importance) to write to him again and remonstrate strongly and order him to liberate the prisoner.

And, if you can, please speak to him personally, for letter-writing takes much time, and urge him most seriously in that sense, until you receive an open letter ordering the prisoner's release, and send me the said open order by my soldier whom I have requested to remain beside you till it is issued. And if the (Kaïd Omar) replies in any other sense I will not accept such answer.

Be informed, oh friend, the sagacious, you are responsible for the occurrences between us and Kaïd Omar, for the Sultan (God be gracious to him) appointed you the intermediary at Fez in regard to affairs between us and others for the preservation of friendship and mutual goodwill.

So why have we been corresponding these two months and more without result or progress?

And now the discussion is at an end on this affair, the man in prison is confined in the cruellest manner (*i.e.*, he cannot even perform the daily offices of nature) by reason of the chains and fetters with which he is bound, and death appears to be nearer to him than life (*i.e.*, he appears to be dying), wherefore if the man die the august British Government will demand retribution (in respect of the deceased) not by money, but by the life of the Kaïd Omar himself (*i.e.*, will demand the execution of Kaïd Omar.) So I warn you beforehand, for your information, and for our friendship's sake, for did I not do so and this happened you could justly blame me for not having warned you. And an answer. The end.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

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* *i.e.*, placed face backwards on a donkey and flogged through the streets.

Inclosure 9 in No. 121.

The Acting Governor of Fez to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(After compliments.) 27 *Safar*, 1317 (*July* 6, 1899).

YOUR letter reached me regarding Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, and so forth. We wrote about it to the Governor of Sifroo, and he has replied as follows:—

"Be informed that the said Bu Sharib was an 'Amin' at a place where grain is sold, and had bought the place, and was encharged with the Government's affairs therein and the like, country and town affairs, and there remained due by him deposits of grain left (or handed in) by country people, total 240 Sifroo measures of wheat, and I had handed him 60 measures millet to sell for me, and he made away with it all. And his doing so is well known to everybody. And by rule, no interference is allowable on behalf of any one employed by the Government; still, for charity's sake, I have lightened the irons on him; and when he pays what is due by him to every one, I will imform your Excellency, and then the matter will be considered by the Government—may God glorify it! And, moreover, the man is still employed by, and responsible to, the Government."

The above is the text of the Kaïd's reply. The end.

(Signed) ABDELMEDGID BENSHOCRON.
(God be gracious to him.)

Inclosure 10 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

(After compliments.) *Fez, July* 6, 1899 (27 *Safar*, 1317).

YOUR answer reached me, stating that you had written to the Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi regarding the prisoner Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, of Sifroo. He (the Kaïd) answers absurdly that the prisoner is in debt to him and so forth, and makes statements credible by nobody, and that cannot be accepted by common sense. If all that had been true, it would have been stated long ago by the Kaïd or his Khalifa; and the point is, and it is important, the man must be released at once by the power of God. The end.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 11 in No. 121.

Mr. White to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(No 11.)

Sir,

Tangier, July 9, 1899.

I HAVE duly received your despatch No. 21 of the 6th instant regarding the imprisonment and cruel treatment, by Kaïd Omar, of Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, and have had the matter under careful consideration.

The case appears to me to present considerable difficulty, as the arrest was effected before the Kaïd had received any notice of the issue of the certificate to Bu Sharib, and therefore it is not clear on what grounds a demand for his release can be based.

Under the circumstances, I do not feel that I should be justified in putting forward any demand without special instructions, and I have therefore forwarded copy of your despatch, and its inclosures, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for such instructions as his Lordship may think proper to give me; and in the meantime I request you to be careful to abstain from holding out any threat or making any representation to the Moorish authorities on the subject in the name of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 72 of the 1st instant, inclosing the reply of the Grand Vizier to the request that facilities might be granted to Mr. Byrne to trade at Cape Juby.

By the 4th clause of the Agreement of the 13th March, 1895, the Moorish Government undertook that Cape Juby should remain open for buying and selling; and by the 6th clause, that any merchants wishing to bring merchandize to the place should have allotted to them a piece of ground at a rental to build suitable stores or dwelling-houses.

The long delay which has occurred in opening Cape Juby to trade has so far rendered these clauses a dead letter.

I have accordingly to request you to point out to the Grand Vizier that already more than four years have elapsed since the date of the Agreement, and that Her Majesty's Government hope that the delay in making the necessary arrangements will not be greatly prolonged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 123.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 17, 1899.

THE loss of the American Colonies has turned the attention of public men in Spain very much towards Morocco. That country, it is needless to repeat, has already held forth attractions to the public mind which now recurs to it as the field where Spain may find compensation for her losses. Many persons in this country openly express their regret that America was ever chosen as the field of Spanish expansion. They think that the efforts and resources spent at that distance would have given better returns nearer home.

In the "Correspondencia de Espana" of to-day there appears a long letter dated, Tetuan, the 12th July, which apparently is intended as the first of a series. It sings the praises of Tetuan and its pashalic on account of its proximity to Ceuta, and begins by enumerating the different methods whereby it may be serviceable to Spanish commercial and other interests.

It points out that were Tetuan to fall into the hands of others it would lead to the complete nullification of Ceuta.

"English torpedo boats are constantly reconnoitring; they arrive at the mouth of the River Martin and approaching Cape Mazari they effect sham landings near the River Adelan which is the eastern limit of the districts of the Riff and the Pashalic of Tetuan."

The article goes on to say that Moorish Italian Agents are buying land on the slopes of the mountains of Beni-Hazmar, a league distance from this city. English, French, and Belgian commerce are prospering, while Spain offers a sad contrast by her passive indolence.

Spain possesses means to extend her influence, her commerce, and her industries, and the progress of Ceuta. In the very city of Tetuan there are elements which might serve this purpose.

In Tetuan Spain possesses a Franciscan Mission with convent, church, and schools, and a Spanish Consulate with 250 Spaniards and 100 naturalized subjects engaged in modest industries, among others the trade in cork which exists in great abundance in the neighbourhood and of which only small quantities are taken from the tribe of Beni-Aros, Benidar, and other points.

There are signs from many quarters that the question of Morocco may soon come within the domain of practical politics. On this account it will be necessary carefully to watch Spanish opinion as expressed in the newspapers.

The "Correspondencia" on account of its moderation is used by Ministers of both sides as an organ and as such the opinions it publishes always have a somewhat exceptional value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 124.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 24.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, reporting fresh cruelties inflicted by Kaïd Omar on Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib, for whom an Agent's certificate had been issued from this Legation, though it did not reach him before his arrest and imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Fez, July* 14, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 6th instant, I much regret to report that Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi last night caused the prisoner Hadj-el-Arbi Bu Sharib to be given 200 lashes, and to be chained standing up close to the wall as before. I am told that the prisoner was beaten about the head, and that throughout the flogging, which took place inside the prison of Sefroo, those who carried it out shouted continuously: "This is the recompense of those who have to do with Christians," or words to that effect.

Public prayers were just about to begin when this news arrived, so I could not see the Acting Governor of Fez, but I have sent him a note into the Palace Mosque, again asking him and the Viceroy to send soldiers to bring the prisoner to Fez at once.

I have, however, little hope that they will do anything in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 125.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 77 of the 9th instant, forwarding a communication from the British Vice-Consul at Fez with regard to the imprisonment by the Governor of Sifroo of a Moor named Boo Sharib, to whom an Agent's certificate had been issued in April last.

Although an injustice has been done in this case, it is not expedient to take it up officially, but you should bring it, in an unofficial and friendly manner, through Kaïd Maclean, to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and request, on the ground of humanity, that the prisoner should be released.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 126.

Mr. Cunninghame-Graham to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 28.)

Dear Mr. Brodrick, *House of Commons, July* 26, 1899.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN has referred me to you, *re* my concession from the Chiefs on the West Coast of Africa.

You may remember that I once spoke to you about this, on his (Mr. Chamberlain's) advice.

I have just returned, and should like very much to have a few minutes' talk with you, as it is important, I think, to secure this territory before the French step in.

Could you appoint any time convenient to you to see me? I could come in the evening or during the day. My address is Devonshire Club.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) R. B. CUNNINGHAME-GRAHAM.

No. 127.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 80.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 20, 1899.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 79 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod reporting that Kaïd Omar is continuing to brutally flog Bu Sharib, and that he is taking steps unofficially to endeavour to obtain the unfortunate man's release, or at any rate to mitigate the cruelties to which he is being subjected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 23.)

Sir, *Fez, July* 16, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 11 of the 9th instant, the instructions in which are having my most careful attention.

I am sorry to say that the Khalifa Benshoeron—in effect—said, after a day's delay, that he and the Viceroy, whom he had twice seen on the subject, could do no more. When this became clear yesterday, I told the prisoner's brother to find some influential native friend, quite unconnected with us, who would visit the Viceroy, and with a suitable gift try for another effort on His Highness' part.

This was done, and I am told the Viceroy has to-day sent a letter to Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi stronger in tone than any yet sent to him.

I myself had invoked the Aman Mukhri's good offices in this affair when the first news of the Kaïd's barbarous proceedings reached us, and he gladly promised to do his best, but the Kaïd declined to listen to him.

I tried the Amin again to-day, however, and he sent for the well-known Shereef Sidi Mohammed Escalli (Kaïd Omar's most intimate friend here) to meet me, and the Shereef has cordially promised to send over his most urgent appeal to the Kaïd to release the prisoner under surety, or at least to have the chains taken off and to cease to flog him.

Just as I write I greatly regret news has arrived that the prisoner was flogged again yesterday, and the report is current that he is to have another flogging to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 128.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a cutting from the local newspaper "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa" containing a letter from its Saffi correspondent, reporting a rumour that the Grand Vizier had accepted French protection, and a leading article thereon.

Although this rumour has been current some time, its appearance in print has occasioned some stir, and has caused Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to address me a letter, translation of which is inclosed herewith, contradicting the report and requesting me to inquire of Mr. Abrines, who is proprietor, editor, and printer of the paper, on what it is based. His Excellency further requests that he be prosecuted in accordance with English law.

Under Article 136 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1891," the Consular Court has special powers to deal with publications "calculated to excite tumult or disorder, or to excite enmity between Her Majesty's subjects and the Government of Morocco, or of any part thereof, or between that Government and its subjects," but it does not appear to me that the article in question, though undoubtedly very unpleasant reading for the Vizier and for the Moorish Government, comes within the terms of this Article, though it might, perhaps, afford grounds for an action for libel.

Upon receipt of Sid Torres' letter I sent for Mr. Abrines as requested, and acquainted him generally with its substance.

I observed that I had occasionally noticed in previous numbers of his paper articles which appeared to me injudicious, and which rendered him liable to prosecution. And I suggested that he should be more careful as to what he published.

Mr. Abrines at once offered to publish an official contradiction of the report in question in the number of his paper appearing that same day.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the letter I have addressed to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, informing him of my interview with Mr. Abrines, and also a cutting from the "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa," containing a contradiction of the report.

With regard to the report itself, I should state that though it has been current for some little time and obtains credence in many quarters that are usually well informed, I am not myself disposed to believe that there is any real foundation for it, the relations between the French Legation and the Court being not sufficiently cordial to warrant the supposition that the all-powerful Vizier is under French protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Extract from "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa" of July 15, 1899.

Saffi, July 7, 1899.

THE recent news that Sid Hamed Ben Musa, the Grand Vizier, has placed himself under French protection, although unexpected, cannot be matter for surprise in a country such as this. But with such a man as Ba Hamed—as the Grand Vizier is called by the natives—apart from his official position, it is difficult to believe that he has taken so dangerous a step. The Vizier is an extremely fervent Mahommedan who would gladly rid the country of Christians. If, therefore, a political move has been made by him, the causes may not be far to seek.

A few weeks since we drew attention to some of the moves made by France in Morocco during recent years, which show that she has for long had a clearly defined policy as regards Morocco. Her every movement shows this; the signs of it are periodically being exposed. French political methods do not fit in with British ideas; the one means a closed door to all but French trade, the other an open door to the commercial world.

Like all men who hold despotic power Ba Hamed's position is at once unsafe and uncertain, and no one better than himself knows this. Is his position beginning to weaken? If such were the case the end might be sudden and involve even His Majesty the Sultan himself.

The continued imprisonment of Mulai Ahmed is a standing menace to the Grand Vizier, nor can this be matter for surprise in view of the relations that exist between them.

When the late Sultan Mulai Hassan died, his death was kept a secret throughout the camp; meanwhile the Vizier prepared his plans for the future government or misgovernment of the country. He and the late Sultan's wife, Lala Arkeea, a Circassian by birth, and mother of the present Sultan, sent authority to the Governor of Marakesh to arrest Mulai Ahmed. His Palace was surrounded at night; he was put into prison and there he remains. This step removed a dangerous rival from the throne, but so long as he lives Ba Hamed must reckon with him as an implacable enemy who has a strong party in his favour.

But bad as the position of Mulai Ahmed may appear, that of Ba Hamed is perhaps still worse. The latter is suffering from an attack of paralysis which may incapacitate him at any moment, and this would doubtless bring about an important movement that would probably bring forward Mulai Ahmed as a pretender for the throne.

According to existing Treaties no official may take protection from a foreign Powers, and if Ba Hamed has taken such a step it points to a situation that must be serious for him. Whatever the cause, French protection would mean a severe blow to British influence in this country, and with this the partial extinction of an important market for British produce.

Doubtless British interests are well watched over; but in a country such as Morocco, where intrigue is a highly developed system, no amount of vigilance can be too great in dealing with the political and commercial aspects that are of vital importance to Great Britain.

We can but hope that the news concerning the Vizier obtaining French protection may not be confirmed, and that he may be spared for many years in the continued enjoyment of better health.

The Vizier also seems afraid of some one or something, as it is reported he has obtained French protection. If true, this may be the heaviest blow that our rights here have received, and we are entitled to know under what circumstances such a result has been achieved to the detriment of every British interest represented in this country.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Extract from "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa" of July 22, 1899.

WE are officially informed that the news with regard to the French protectionton the Vizier, which was made reference to in our last issue, is unfounded. In our leader we only gave this information as current public news, which it is satisfactory to learn, officially, is not confirmed.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Sid Mohammed Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 13 *Rabia I*, 1317 (*July* 22, 1899).

WE inform you that we have observed in the newspaper "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa," which is printed by the Englishman, Mr. Abrines, at Tangier, an article to the effect that the Grand Vizier, the Fakieh Sid Ahmed-ben-Musa, has entered under the protection of the French Government, and the spreading of this report fills us with the greatest astonishment for reasons which I could not explain, and I do not know what grounds the said Abrines has for publishing this statement, which is devoid of foundation, and could not enter into the imagination of people of sense. We, accordingly, earnestly request you to inquire of the proprietor of the above-mentioned newspaper what induced him to write thus regarding the Vizier, who would shrink from anything of the kind, and also restrain him within his proper limits, and to prosecute him in accordance with the laws of your great country regarding such matters; we expect this of your known zeal, and of your custom of conducting affairs well, and we are awaiting your reply.

May you continue in prosperity and peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN EL ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 128.

Mr. White to Sid Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, July* 24, 1899 (15 *Rabia I*, 1317).

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 13th Rabia I (22nd July) complaining of an article that appeared in the newspaper "Al-Moghreb al-Aksa," referring to a report that the Grand Vizier had received French protection.

I learnt with regret that anything published in a newspaper belonging to an Englishman should have been distasteful to the Moorish Government, and in accordance with your Excellency's request I sent at once for Mr. Abrines, the proprietor of the newspaper in question, and communicating to him your Excellency's declaration that the report was devoid of foundation, I inquired what had led him to give currency to it.

Mr. Abrines replied that the report had reached him in a letter from his correspondent at Saffi, which was published in the paper. He pointed out that in this letter the news is not stated as a fact, but is merely given as a report of which the accuracy is doubtful, whilst in the leading article the report is referred to as one that it is "difficult to believe."

I requested Mr. Abrines to be careful in future not to publish in his newspaper any unconfirmed reports that could be offensive to the Moorish Government, the Grand Vizier or other high Moorish officials, and I warned him that should he publish anything contrary to British law he would be liable to be prosecuted.

Your Excellency will observe that Mr. Abrines has taken the earliest opportunity of publishing in his paper the official contradiction of the above-mentioned report, and I trust that he will not in future give the Moorish Government any cause of complaint against him.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 7, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 82 of the 24th instant, reporting the steps taken by you in consequence of a complaint by Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres of an article which had appeared in the "Al-Moghreb Al-Aksa," accusing the Grand Vizier of having placed himself under Fenchp rotection.

Your action as reported in that despatch has the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 2, 1899.

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 61 of the 17th ultimo, I have addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier pointing out that already more than four years have elapsed since the date of the Cape Juby Agreement of 1895, and the Moorish Government have not yet given effect to the engagement they entered into by the 4th and 6th clauses for opening that port to trade, and informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government hopes that the delay in making the necessary arrangements will not be greatly prolonged.

I beg to inclose herewith a translation of this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Mr. White to Cid-Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, Rabia I*, 24, 1317 (*August* 2, 1899).

I HAVE received and communicated to Her Majesty's Government your Excellency's letter of the 7th Safar, informing me that the necessary arrangements have not yet been completed for enabling merchants to establish themselves in trade at Cape Juby, but that the Shereefian Government is continuing to occupy itself with this matter.

Your Excellency is aware that by the 4th clause of the Agreement of Ramadan 16, 1312 (13th March, 1895), between your Excellency and the Minister, Sir E. Satow, the Shereefian Government undertook that Cape Juby should remain open for buying and selling, and by the 6th clause, that any merchants wishing to bring merchandize to that place should have allotted to them a piece of ground at a rental to build suitable stores or dwelling houses.

I am directed by Her Majesty's Government to point out to your Excellency that more than four years have already elapsed since the date of that Agreement, and the above-mentioned engagement has not yet been carried out. Her Majesty's Government therefore hope that the delay in making the necessary arrangements will not be greatly prolonged.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 131.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

No. 84.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 4, 1899.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 8 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that I have acquainted Kaïd Maclean with the particulars of the case of Hadj-el-Arbi-Bushail, and I have requested him to communicate them to the Grand Vizier in a friendly and unofficial manner, informing his Excellency that it was on grounds of humanity that I brought to his notice the very cruel treatment of this unfortunate prisoner and appealed to him to order his release.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 88. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 9, 1899.

SOME weeks ago the Shereef of Shinghit, who resides at a place named El Bir-el Hamira, about three days' march from Cape Juby, arrived at the Moorish coast, and was received with exceptional honour and distinction by the Sultan and the Grand Vizier.

This personage is regarded with much reverence, and esteemed a Saint, and exercises great influence throughout the districts whence he comes.

The conjectures were many as to the object of this visit, and endeavours were made to ascertain whether he had any matters of import to treat with the Moorish Government. An informant, for whose accuracy I would not unreservedly vouch, states that he has learnt that the Shereef has been intrusted with a mission from the Sultan of Turkey to induce His Shereefian Majesty to enter into intimate relations with Constantinople, and that he received credentials in the shape of a letter from Yildiz Kiosk, impressing on the Moorish Government the advantage of a close alliance with their fellow Moslems at Stamboul.

The substance of the letter has been communicated to this Legation, and I beg leave to transmit a translation of it. There are several portions of it which would

throw doubt on its authenticity; but the sender may have written it down from memory and added some embellishments of his own. I venture, nevertheless, to transmit it to your Lordship, as possibly, if thought necessary, information might be obtained from Constantinople, as to whether negotiations are being initiated by the Sultan of Turkey. I doubt if the Moorish Government would feel disposed to meet with great cordiality any advance from Stamboul, as they would be of opinion that the recognition of the Ottoman Sovereign as Caliph, the goal to which the Sultan of Turkey would eventually lead them, would seriously affect the position among his own people of the Sultan of Morocco, whose predecessors have, I believe, consistently declined to acknowledge the Ruler at Stamboul as having any claims to the spiritual chieftainship of the faithful.

I will endeavour to learn what has been proceeding at Morocco city in regard to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Abstract of Letter communicated to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.) 29 *Hajja*, 1316 (*May* 10, 1899).

YOU are well aware that God has established bonds of brotherhood between Mussulmans in his glorious Book, wherein he says that only the faithful are brothers, and therefore He said that the prayers and salutations of one Muslim to another are like buildings cemented one upon another, and there are many other sayings and traditions to the same effect. And you are also aware, O Prince of the Faithful, and Caliph of the Lord of all things created, that there are five Sovereigns over Mussulmen, viz., yourself and myself, and the Sultan of Oman and Muscat, and Afghanistan and some of the Princes of India; and if we do not have a Secret Agreement between ourselves, and love of our religion, and strong and carefully guarded bonds in accordance with the orders of our Lord Mahommed, we are most disobedient to God and to his Prophet, and are guilty of a most abominable sin which passes all bounds. And if that alliance cannot be open let it be secret, for great strength accrues thereby to the Mahommedan religion, and its pillars are elevated and the house of God is guarded from danger, and the law of the Prophet is preserved. And if a tree has collected together the strength of its roots in one piece, and a person desires to carefully and utterly destroy it, he is unable to destroy it or cut it down, but if he separates each twig by itself he can the more easily break it off from the rest. And it is the same with us, O Mussulmen, so long as our alliance is maintained and we keep word with each other, then, though that alliance is secret, our strength cannot be destroyed. But if we remain in our present state our power will be broken and our strength destroyed. Therefore we desire you, O Prince of the Faithful, to depart from the sin of your Father in not inclining towards friendship with any other (Mussulman) Government, but withdrawing himself into an isolated condition, and thereby caused his subjects and himself to perish. Ask advice of your brethren amongst Moslem Sovereigns like myself and consult them regarding what is for your own benefit. We desire that you in your wisdom should incline towards entering into bonds of union.

Do not fail, therefore, to send an Envoy to us either secretly or openly as you may think proper, and dispatch him with all speed in order that we may confer with him regarding affairs, if your Government is inclined to adopt this course, which will conduce to the greatest success and increase its power also. We have heard that Sid is meditating. And send your Envoy and there will be only solid friendship and affection between us, and the two Governments will proceed correctly and along the straight path.

No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 12, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 11th August last year, I regret to have to report that no progress has been made towards the settlement of the debts due to

British merchants in the Saffi district. The Grand Vizier has frequently informed me that orders of the most stringent character have been sent to the provincial authorities, to dispatch the debtors to Saffi to have their several cases examined; but these orders cannot have been strongly worded as they were entirely ignored by those to whom they were addressed.

I have been privately informed that the Grand Vizier is now alive to the injustice of this long-continued delay in the settlement of the claims of British merchants, and that the moment is a favourable one for bringing pressure to bear on his Excellency. I have, therefore, addressed a communication to him, pointing out the necessity of a speedy arrangement, and requesting that orders about which there can be no doubt should again be sent, and that the Administrators at Saffi should receive definite instructions to examine and settle the claims, in conjunction with some British official. It is possible that many of the claims will require some sifting, and the only official who is competent to assist the Administration is Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida. The British Vice-Consul at Saffi is one of the principal creditors, and so would hardly be in a position to adjudicate in the matter.

I beg leave to transmit a copy of my note to the Grand Vizier, and I should be glad to receive your Lordship's authority to send Mr. Consul Maclean if the reply of the Grand Vizier is satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, August* 12, 1899.

I HAD hoped on returning to my post to have found the long-standing question of the Saffi debts terminated; but I regret to learn, oh friend, that it still remains unsettled. This protracted delay has brought the question to a critical point, and you will understand that it is eminently desirable to conclude the matter without any further procrastination. For years past British merchants have been unable to receive their dues, and though I have been informed frequently that orders have been sent that the Kaïds should send, as required by Treaty, all debtors to the coast to have their affairs examined and settled, the Kaïds have consistently declined to pay the slightest attention to these orders. Some two years ago the British Consul at Dar-al-Baida proceeded to Saffi in order to assist in the elucidation and settlement of these debts, but after waiting several months and no step having been taken by the Moorish authorities to facilitate or aid him in his mission, he was compelled to return with no progress being made. All I request and have continually requested is that the debtors should be sent in to answer the claims against them. This is no unreasonable request, and is one in accordance with Treaties; and if the Kaïds disobey the orders sent them to that end, I must hold the Moorish Government responsible. Now, oh friend, I am anxious to give one more opportunity and to exercise a little more patience, but I must state frankly that if the matter is not settled speedily and properly, I shall be able no longer to refrain from viewing the matter as a most grave affair, and one in which the legitimate requests of the Legation and the merchants have been completely ignored and disregarded. I therefore must request that orders, as to which there can be no doubt and no hesitation, be sent to the Kaïds, to send without delay the debtors to the coast, and I will ask authority to send competent British officials to Saffi to assist the Oomana in the examination of the claims; but I must be, in the first place, convinced that the debtors will arrive and that the Oomana will receive full powers and instructions, as I cannot allow the British official to make a fruitless visit, as was the case with the British Consul two years ago. I therefore await your reply, as if this proposal leads to no results, I can but hold the Moorish Government responsible for the amount of the debts.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 134.

Lord Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 177. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Turin, August* 20, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have just returned from a visit to M. Visconti-Venosta at the Certosa di Pesio, where he has been detained for some weeks by the serious illness of his son. His Excellency has not, during his stay there, been able to pay much attention to public affairs, and did not appear to have formed any opinion as to the object of M. Delcassé's recent visit to St. Petersburgh or as to the effect which it might have on the foreign policy of the French Government. The general tendency, he said, of the reports from the Italian Ambassador in Paris was that the Government of the Republic had neither the will nor the power to enter upon a warlike policy. At the same time, he thought it likely that M. Delcassé would attempt to obtain some diplomatic success that would compensate for the loss of prestige caused by the Fashoda affair, and that he may have applied to the Russian Government for their support.

In answer to my inquiries, M. Visconti-Venosta said that he had heard nothing recently which would lead him to apprehend any new development in regard to Morocco. So far as he was aware, the views of the French Government did not at present go beyond an extension of influence or territory in the direction of Tuat, though it was not improbable that the death of the Sultan or of the Prime Minister, either of which seemed to be a likely event, might precipitate matters. He had not heard that Germany was showing any special interest in Moorish affairs.

The Italian Government was, he said, strongly in favour of the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco, and should anything likely to affect it come to his knowledge, he would not fail to communicate it to me for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CURRIE.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 89 of the 12th instant, reporting that the debts due to British merchants in the Saffi district still remain unsettled, and inclosing a copy of a note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I approve this communication, and also your proposal, in certain circumstances, to send Mr. Consul Maclean to Saffi with a view to the settlement of these claims.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 136.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 17, 1899.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that Cid Ghannam met the Diplomatic Body this morning, in order to arrive at a definite settlement of the long outstanding claims arising out of the pillage of the M'zab Kasbah in 1896.

Cid Ghannam produced a list of claims which he had been authorized to discuss and arrange with the several Representatives, and on this list figured a few of the British claims.

I inquired of Cid Ghannam whether we were to understand that the other claims which did not appear on the list in his possession, and which had long ago been presented to the Moorish Government, had been accepted and passed by the latter; and

that those which he was now desirous of discussing were merely those in regard to which objections had been raised. Cid Ghannam replied that he had only been authorized to discuss the claims mentioned on his list, and he understood that they were claims which the several Consuls had not been able to arrange with the Governor at Dar-el-Baida, as there were some doubts in regard to them.

He had received no nstructions with respect to the other claims, though he believed they had been settled by private arrangement at Dar-el-Baida.

I told Cid Ghannam, and my colleagues concurred, that I should then consider all claims not mentioned on his list as having been accepted by the Moorish Government, and I should request immediate payment of them. The contested claims I should be ready to discuss when he furnished me with copy of his list, and explained the objections which had been raised against them. There seems to be now some prospect of a settlement being at length reached.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 137.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 18, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the extension of the French postal service in Morocco.

The French Post Office in this country is a branch of the Postal Administration in France, while the British Post Offices in Morocco are dependencies of the Colonial Post Office of Gibraltar. The French postal service here is, therefore, able to embark on larger enterprises than the comparatively limited financial means of our Gibraltar Office justify the Colonial Authorities in venturing upon.

I believe the British postal service in Morocco is indeed worked, at present, at a loss, and the authorities at Gibraltar are indisposed to incur further outlay with somewhat problematical higher returns. Should, however, your Lordship desire it, I could consult the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject, and discuss with him the possibility of further extending the British service.

As to the political advantages to which Mr. Maclean alludes, I hardly think they are so great as he assumes. Personally I send all important and pressing correspondence by special couriers, independently of the post office, this method being speedier and safer. The ordinary postal couriers are known to the natives, and robberies of their bags are not unfrequent. I do not, therefore, consider that at "critical moments" the French Government would enjoy any special advantages. I am inclined to doubt whether French influence would be extended by a few postal agencies. The establishment of the latter in Morocco city and Mequinez would certainly not be agreeable to the Moorish Government, who are opposed to increased facilities of communication in any form whatsoever. Increased influence over the Moorish Government would, therefore, not be attained; and I doubt if the natives would be much impressed by the proposed increase of postal agencies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Consul Maclean to Mr. White.

(No. 102.)
Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, August* 12, 1899.

THE French Government has extended its postal service in Morocco by establishing offices for the collection and delivery of letters in Sallee and Azinor.

It is also reported to me that it intends taking over the courier service between Mazagan and Morocco city, which is now run by private French enterprise, and to inaugurate an office in the latter place.

I am informed further that a French post office is to be established in Mequinez and other interior cities.

This new departure is not without political interest, as it means—

1. Offices belonging to a foreign Government established in certain places in Morocco for the first time.

2. The French Government obtains facilities of communication, under its own control, and served by its own employés, which may some time, and at a critical moment, afford it advantages not enjoyed by other European Governments.

Besides these benefits there is the consequent extension of French influence. "Poste Française" will become familiar to every native in the country, particularly in those districts adjacent to the roads over which the couriers travel.

Her Majesty's Government would meet with no greater difficulties than the French, were they disposed to institute a service on similar lines.

It would be merely a matter of a small expenditure to extend the present Gibraltar system.

To estimate what this expenditure would amount to would not be difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALAN MACLEAN.

No. 138.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 21, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a Circular addressed to the foreign Representatives here by Cid Ghannam regarding certain coastguard measures which the Moorish Government desires to take on the Riff coast. Some of my colleagues consider that portions of the Circular are not very clear, and require explanation. So far as I understand the note, no interference with foreign vessels is intended unless they are found loading or discharging cargo on the Riff coast, which would be an illicit operation, as there are no custom-houses on the coast except at Tetuan. Should, however, there be an intention of seizing or overhauling any vessel which may be proceeding along the coast this would be giving great latitude to the Moorish cruizer, and would probably lead to difficulties.

I propose to see the Sultan's Commissioner on the subject, and will ascertain the exact scope of the proposed measures. Should I find that the measures, so far as concerns foreign vessels, are to be strictly limited to preventing illicit trade on the Riff coast, and that the offending craft, if found *flagrante delicto*, will simply be towed into Tangier to be dealt with by its own authorities, I presume there would be no objection to accepting the regulations, provided that all the other Powers were willing to subscribe to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Cid Benasser Ghannam to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

KNOW, oh friend, that I have received orders from the Sultan to inform your Excellency of what is not unknown to you, viz., that some of the Riff tribes have formerly seized vessels belonging to Europeans, and have thereby put the Maghzen to great expense as well as to the costs of expeditions sent to punish them, as they were becoming rebels and their rebellion had to be cut short; and this arose from their boats plying on the Riff coast, and as these boats of theirs were the cause of the damage which accrued to them and others, the Maghzen decided to deprive them of boats altogether, and not to allow them to ply at all, either on their own coast or at the ports of Tetuan and Tangier, but only to leave their small fishing boats on condition that they do not go out of their own respective ports, and that if a boat goes out of its own port to another or to Tetuan or Tangier, the Government will seize it as

contraband and arrest those on board. Also, if any boat goes from Tetuan or Tangier or other port to the Riff coast it will be seized with all that is in it, and those on board will be arrested.

On account of these regulations, the Sultan has decided to place a coastguard steamer to patrol on that coast, and should it discover any one loading or discharging goods in Riff boats or foreign vessels, it will tow them to Tangier in order that the necessary investigation be made in accordance with Treaty. And a term of six months from this date has been fixed. after which these regulations will come into force. We acquaint you with this in order that you may inform your nationals in case you should have any there. And we request a reply from you.

(Signed) CID BENASSER GHANNAM.

Rabia II, 8, 1317 (*August* 16, 1899).

No. 139.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 22, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of yesterday's date, a report reached me that the vessel which the Moorish Government intended to employ on coastguard service on the Riff coast was the cruiser which had been constructed in Italy for the Sultan, and in regard to which some correspondence occurred in 1895, as marked in the margin.*

I asked the Italian Minister whether he could give me any information on the subject. M. de Malmusi told me that it was possible that the Moorish Government did intend to utilize the vessel for coastguard service, but that he had no information on the point. The Moorish Government had paid all the sums due on account of the vessel, and had requested the firm in Italy to dispose of her to any purchaser. The only offer which had been received was from some Central American Republic, Honduras he believed, which was willing to purchase the vessel for 48,000*l*. This offer had been transmitted to the Moorish Government, who had declined to accept it, and, so far as he knew, the matter had rested there.

M. de Malmusi said he had no information as to whether she would be officered by Italians or what the Moorish Government intended to do with her, though vague reports had reached him that she was shortly to be sent out from Italy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 140.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1899.

WITH reference to Sir H. D. Wolff's despatch No. 179 of the 17th July relative to Spanish aspirations in this country, I would beg leave to remark that I have noticed in one or two recent conversations with the Spanish Minister here a disposition on his part to take a more pronounced and active interest in Moorish affairs than formerly. M. de Ojeda has informed me on more than one occasion that he declined the Legation at Washington, as he considered that Tangier was one of the most important posts for a Spanish diplomatist, and one offering a wide field for activity.

M. de Ojeda dreams of the coast-line from Melilla to Tangier falling into Spanish hands, not by conquest, but when the eventual partition of Morocco occurs, by an arrangement among the Powers who, unable to find a satisfactory solution otherwise, would place Tangier and adjacent coast in the hands of an inoffensive Power who could be a menace to no one. Spain, he considers, would be that Power.

* Sir H. D. Wolff, No. 17, Telegraphic, March 9; to Sir H. D. Wolff, No. 3, Telegraphic, March 11; Mr. White, No. 11, Telegraphic, March 12; to Mr. Satow, No. 7, Telegraphic, March 12; Mr. Satow, No. 50, May 2; Sir H. D. Wolff, No. 206, June 25, 1895.

Spanish politicians may doubtless desire to seek compensation for their lost colonies by an expansion in this country; but I doubt if Spain is likely to become, politically or commercially, a serious rival to other European nations in Morocco. Neither with the Government nor with the natives will she easily attain the position and influence possessed by other more advanced nations. The Moor holds the Spaniard as of little account; the past history of Spanish relations with Morocco have inspired neither fear nor respect, and recent events have not increased the estimation in which Spain is held. It is natural that Spain should evince an anxious interest in a potentially rich country lying close to her own shores, and which may possibly be approaching its stage of dissolution, but I doubt, so far as can be seen from here, if she will be in a position, by herself, to take any advantage of her proximity, which other nations if similarly situated might, and possibly would, employ with considerable effect.

At the same time, it should be noted that there is a large Spanish colony in Tangier, and a considerable number of Spaniards at other places on the coast. If conditions of life become harder in Spain, it is probable that this number will be increased, and in certain eventualities might prove a factor of which account would have to be taken. The settlers are chiefly composed of families who have been unable to earn a living in their own country, and who are engaged here in small trades, in charcoal burning and wood cutting, thereby rapidly denuding the country of the little timber that was left. They are fairly quiet in behaviour, but do not form an element of progress or well-being.

The Spanish Franciscan Mission, to which Sir H. D. Wolff alludes, holds throughout Morocco an exceptional position, under an Apostolical Prefect. By virtue, I am told, of privileges granted by former Popes, it has entire control, to the exclusion of others, over Roman Catholics in Morocco. The French Minister told me that he was unable to have a Legation Chapel and priest, unless he placed them under Franciscan administration; and the French hospital here has never been opened owing to the refusal of the Franciscans to permit French Sisters of Mercy to act as nurses. The Christian Brothers of Gibraltar have been anxious to establish English schools here, but have been prevented from doing so by the Franciscan veto. This question, I am told, is likely to be raised again shortly.

Although a further influx of Spaniards may be expected, and a number of petty trades fall into their hands, I do not anticipate that any immediate important results will ensue. Still, as Sir H. D. Wolff observes, the question of Spanish activity should be carefully watched.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 141.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 71.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 21st instant, forwarding the translation of a Circular addressed to the foreign Representatives at Tangier by Cid Ghannan relating to coast-guard measures which the Moorish Government desire to take on the Riff coast.

I concur in the view taken by you of this matter, and approve the action which you propose to take with regard to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 142.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 72.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 92 of the 17th instant reporting an interview which the Diplomatic Body have had with Cid Ghannan, at which the claims arising out of the pillage at the Nizab Kasbah in 1896 were discussed.

I approve the communication which you made to Cid Ghannan on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 99.)
Tangier, August 25, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 70 of the 23rd June, I have the honour to report that I am informed, from a trustworthy source at the Court, that the Moorish Government has received reassuring news from the Tafilet district. The General of the expedition sent by the Sultan has reported that he has arranged all matters satisfactorily, and that peace is now established. Both the General and the Acting Governor have further reported that they have also dissuaded the tribes from listening to French overtures, and that the Government need be no longer apprehensive of any French intrigues.

This news has greatly relieved the Moorish Government, who were becoming very uneasy as to the situation of affairs in Tafilet.

The Misfiona tribes, south of Morocco city, who of late have been giving much trouble to the Government, and against whom a considerable expedition was dispatched, have now sent in delegates to the Court praying for pardon and making their full submission. They offer to pay any fine which the Government may think fit to impose, and to give hostages for their good behaviour in future. The delegates have returned to the tribes with the conditions required by the Government, and which are said to be very severe ones.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 144.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 27. Commercial.)
Tangier, August 30, 1899.

My Lord,

A CONSIDERABLE party of pilgrims arrived here in the first week of this month in a Turkish steamer, and were forwarded to Mogador Island, whither they had been preceded by the doctor of the Sanitary Council, accompanied by a fairly numerous staff of assistants and attendants, besides some Spanish masons and carpenters.

The Moorish authorities, after some little persuasion, appear to have afforded the necessary assistance in the way of tents, provisions, &c., and the pilgrims having undergone a quarantine of ten days and disinfection of their effects, were allowed to proceed to the mainland and return to their homes.

It was after their departure that serious difficulties seem to have arisen with the local authorities.

The Sanitary Council doctor wished to transport to the island some building material to construct a house for the disinfecting stove, and also requested the authorities to give him the keys of the prison on the island, as he wished to utilize it for any other pilgrims who might arrive. The authorities stated that their orders had been to evacuate the island of the prisoners and to supply tents and other necessaries for the pilgrims, but that they had received no instructions as to permitting the erection of buildings or as to handing over the prison.

The doctor finding that he was unable to persuade the authorities to accede to his requests, applied to the Senior Consul, who is M. Bertrand, the French Consul, for the support of the Consular Body. I beg leave to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Broome in regard to this matter, I have informed Mr. Broome that I approve of the terms of his note to M. Bertrand, and that he is not to associate himself with any forcible measures until he has received instructions from this Legation. Any hasty local action is to be deprecated, and I think it is to be regretted that M. Bertrand made use of threats which, in face of the opposition of the authorities, merely caused unnecessary irritation, and did not secure the desired results.

The French Minister, and indeed all my colleagues, are impatient at the continued difficulties raised by the Moorish authorities with respect to the establishment of a

lazaretto, but the misunderstandings are largely due to the Moorish authorities not having fully understood the measures which the Sanitary Council intended to adopt on the island.

The Moorish Government was never informed of the precise nature of the works which the Sanitary Council proposed to undertake. Moreover, in the instructions which the Sultan's Delegate sent to the local authorities at Mogador, in an open letter through the President of the Sanitary Council, no mention was made of buildings, and the authorities, therefore, considered that none would be erected. The Moorish Government fears a permanent occupation of the island, and it resents measures being taken, or attempted to be taken, on its own territory and in regard to its own subjects by a foreign body on which it is not represented and by whom it is not consulted, and whose powers, it contends, are limited to dealing with vessels arriving from abroad. The relations of the Sanitary Council with the Moorish Government should undoubtedly be placed on a better footing, and the composition altered so as to admit of some Moorish representation. A project is now being drawn up, for submission to the respective Governments, which it is hoped will lead to a satisfactory arrangement.

In the meantime the present situation is unfortunate, and it affords no security that sanitary precautions are properly executed, it leads to continal friction, it contains the elements of danger to peacful relations with Morocco, and it may give a plausible reason to France, as a territorial neighbour, taking up the matter in a manner which might prove inconvenient.

The French Minister mentioned to me to-day that Algeria was more closely interested than any other country in the proper observance of sanitary precautions in Morocco, and he gave me to understand that if the Moorish Government rendered the efforts of the Sanitary Council practically abortive, the Governor-General might have to propose to his Government that measures with respect to returning Moorish pilgrims, should be placed in his hands and control exercised over them in Algeria and not in Morocco.

I am bringing privately to the notice of the Grand Vizier, in a friendly manner, the necessity of his authorities rendering cordial and ready assistance, and I trust that the present season may be tided over without any mishap.

I must apologize to your Lordship for the length of this despatch, but this question of Mogador Island may at some moment become a delicate one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Acting Vice-Consul Broome to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)
Mogador, August 24, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you an event which occurred the day before yesterday.

Herein I inclose a copy of a letter which I thought it my duty to address to the doyen of the Consular Corps, M. Bertrand, the French Consul at this port, respecting the matter, and by way of fuller explanation I have to inform you that on the 8th instant a batch of pilgrims from Mecca to the number of 420 were landed on the island to perform quarantine under the supervision of medical delegates sent by the Sanitary Commissioners of Tangier.

Two or three meetings were convened by M. Bertrand with the view of asking the local authorities co-operation in properly having Quarantine Regulations carried out.

These Regulations were finally accomplished, and the pilgrims landed, just when the French steamer landed at the Waterport a quantity of building material, to be used, I believe, for building a lazaretto on the island.

It appears from the letter which M. Bertrand has addressed his Excellency the French Minister that he went to the Custom-house in the character of a delegate of the Consular Corps to demand that this should be taken to the island; the Governor and the Oomana refused his request on the ground that they had no instructions either from the Sultan or the Moorish Minister. It appears, then, that M. Bertrand told those authorities that he would have it conveyed to the island by force, and commenced to ship lime in private boats, whereupon the Governor called the guards and seized the lime.

M. Bertrand also demanded the key of the large prison recently built on the island, which also being refused, he threatened to order the foreign workmen of the island to break open the door of the said prison.

The Governor has sent armed soldiers to the island to resist any attempt to take possession of the prison, and also to prevent strangers landing on the island.

Whether M. Bertrand has instructions from his Minister to use such strong measures I have no means of knowing; but I wish to point out to you that it would be a mistake to say that M. Bertrand consulted his colleagues in this affair.

There is a very strong feeling among the Mahommedan population against Christians building on the island from the fact that almost the only place on which it is possible to erect new buildings is nothing but a graveyard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. BROOME.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Acting Vice-Consul Broome to M. Bertrand.

Sir and dear Colleague, *Mogador, August* 24, 1899.

I BEG to say that I received and read your Circular copy of your despatch to his Excellency the French Minister at Tangier, informing of the steps you had taken to compel the Governor of this town to carry out certain instructions of the Tangier Sanitary Commissioners.

I have no instructions from my superiors on the subject of building a lazaretto on the island, and, therefore, I could not join any of my colleagues in forcible measures to break open the prison or to build a lazaretto contrary to the Governor's orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. BROOME.

No. 145.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 31, 1899.

THE German Minister inquired of me this morning whether the report which he had seen in some newspapers that the Moorish Government had given me a promise that a port should be opened in the Sûs was true or not.

I told Baron Mentzingen that no promise had been made to me in the matter, though I had, when the "Tourmaline" case was under discussion with the Moorish Government, suggested that a port should be opened and thus avoid a pretext for any similar expeditions in the future. I had recently heard that the Moorish Government had sent some one down the Sûs coast to report upon the matter, but there was a long step between such preliminary inquiries and the actual opening of a port.

Baron Mentzingen was inclined to press me as to my views in regard to the policy of opening such a port and the effect it would have on the prosperity of Mogador. I said that some merchants had told me it would seriously affect the trade at Mogador, and to a certain extent this might be true, but that I was not actively interesting myself in the matter at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 146.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report that the German cruiser the "Kaiser" arrived here this morning on her way home from Japan. A few days ago the German

training corvette the "Stosch" also paid a visit to Tangier of a week's duration. The comparatively frequent visits of German men-of-war are creating some public comment, especially with respect to the arrival of the "Kaiser," as it is considered strange that a vessel, homeward bound from a distant station, should delay her voyage at a port where she cannot coal or refit if any repairs were required.

One or two of my colleagues who have alluded to the matter consider that the German Government is merely desirous of showing the flag, and doubt whether any impression but the most fleeting is produced on the mind of the Moorish public by the visits of men-of-war.

I am informed that the "Kaiser's" last port of call was Palmero, and that she is leaving this evening for Cadiz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 28. Commercial. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to state that a telegram was received on the 1st instant, viâ the Canary Islands, from the doctor in charge at Mogador Island, to the effect that the Moorish authorities had pulled down the buildings he had commenced to erect on the island, and had requested him to leave. This he had declined to do, and stated that he was preparing the encampment for any future pilgrims who might arrive.

It will be necessary to await the detailed report from the doctor as to what has actually occurred, but I am afraid that both the doctor and the French Consul are exhibiting a great want of tact and forbearance, and have been acting in a manner which has produced a disagreeable situation.

The present position of affairs is, I think, due to the fact that the Moorish Government being under the impression that having left the island free for the pilgrims, and having provided, as was the case in former years, tents, provisions, and guards, no further demands would be made on them. Having, since my despatch No. 27, had an opportunity of perusing a careful translation of the letter sent by the President of the Sanitary Council to the Grand Vizier on the 18th July, I find that there was nothing in this communication which need lead his Excellency to believe that barracks were to be erected or any permanent constructions established. He was told that "some necessary arrangements" would have to be made and "certain things" purchased, and he was requested to give orders for the repayment of such expenses—orders, which I may mention, he has hitherto declined to issue. I beg leave to transmit a copy of the letter of the President and of the reply of the Grand Vizier. I also transmit an extract from the report of the French Consul in regard to the view taken by the Governor of Mogador. I may mention that a report from the Portuguese Consul states that, in his opinion, the authorities at Mogador are not to blame; that the Governor gave all that was necessary in the way of tents, &c., and even went beyond his instructions in allowing some building material to be landed on the island, when it was pointed out to him that it was essential that the disinfecting stove should be set up. But when attempts were made to land on the island a very large quantity of material intended for the erection of twenty barracks, he did not dare to incur further responsibility and forbade the transport.

Having assumed yesterday the provisional presidency of the Sanitary Council in the absence of the United States' Representative, I called a meeting of the Council at the request of the members, and I laid the above considerations before them. Some of my colleagues, notably the Spanish Minister, were much incensed at the action of the Moorish authorities; but the majority eventually adopted my suggestion that we should await a full report from the doctor. They desired me, however, to write a note to the Sultan's deputy here, copy of which I transmit. This communication was chiefly intended to put in a claim for damages, in case any serious loss has been occasioned.

I have telegraphed to Alexandria and elsewhere to inquire if any more Moorish pilgrims are on their way, as if we are to expect no more, it will be advisable to withdraw, both for financial and other reasons, the doctor and his staff from Mogador.

I have conveyed privately to the Grand Vizier the necessity of forbidding at once

any forcible action on the part of his local authorities, and have suggested one or two concessions which would relieve the situation. At the same time the project for a reorganization of the Sanitary Council is now nearly ready for transmission to the Governments, and I trust that if some arrangement can be made on its lines all causes for future friction and misunderstandings will be definitely removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

Count Crenneville to Cid Hamed-ben-Musa.

Tanger, le 18 *Juillet*, 1899.

(Après compliments.)

LORSQUE le Représentant de Sa Majesté à Tanger nous a informé de la décision Chérifienne décrétant le transfert des prisonniers de l'Ile de Mogador, afin que celle-ci reste tout entière à la disposition des pèlerins, le Conseil Sanitaire s'est préoccupé de pourvoir à l'installation nécessaire pour le recevoir.

C'est avec le sentiment de vive reconnaissance envers la sagesse de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le Conseil Sanitaire a pris acte de cette résolution qui lui donne le moyen de défendre l'Empire du Maroc et le monde entier contre le fléau de la peste.

Il résulte des études qui ont été faites à ce sujet qu'un certain nombre de travaux sont indispensables, et doivent être effectifs, pour être durables, dans des conditions propres à donner toutes les garanties suffisantes pour la santé des pèlerins et pour la santé publique.

Beaucoup de ces travaux, et les plus indispensables, pourront pas se faire à Mogador même, mais il sera nécessaire de les faire exécuter à Tanger. De plus, il est de grande importance que le lazaret en question soit muni d'appareils de désinfection et autres qui devront être commandés en Europe.

Vous comprendrez que les Représentants des Puissances ne pourront autoriser l'embarquement des pèlerins Marocains que lorsque les préparatifs dont il s'agit seront terminés. Il convient donc que Sa Majesté donne le plus tôt possible les ordres nécessaires pour que les sommes nécessaires seront remises au Conseil Sanitaire.

C'est le dernier pas qui reste à franchir dans la voie du règlement de cette question si importante pour la santé de l'Empire Chérifienne et celle des États qui sont ses voisins. Aussi le Conseil Sanitaire ne doute pas que Sa Majesté Chérifienne accueillera favorablement cette démarche.

(Signé) CRENNEVILLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

Cid Hamed-ben-Musa to Count Crenneville.

(Traduction.)

29 *Rabbia I*, 1317 (7 *Août*, 1899).

(Après compliments.)

NOUS avons reçu votre lettre dans laquelle vous dites que la plupart des médicaments et instruments dont a besoin le médecin chargé pour cette année de la direction de la quarantaine à l'Ile de Mogador pour les pèlerins malades, n'est pas trouvable à Mogador et il est donc nécessaire de les procurer à Tanger.

Vous demandez en conséquence des ordres Chérifiens pour les Oomana de Tanger pour vous remettre les fonds nécessaires pour l'achat des susdits instruments et médicaments, et cela parce que si les pèlerins Marocains apportent l'épidémie, ils ne seront admis sans avoir préparé ce que vous dites.

Nous avons porté tout cela à la haute connaissance de notre Maître, qui après avoir pris note, m'ordonne de vous répondre que vos attributions comme Délégués du Gouvernement Marocain pour les affaires sanitaires sont bien explicites et connues par vous.

Quant à l'affaire des pèlerins le règlement à leur égard se trouve auprès le Représentant Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres, et dont vous avez parfaite connaissance. Cid Torres a informé le Gouvernement Marocain de la teneur des entretiens qu'il a eus avec vous à ce sujet et la réponse qu'il vous a donnée et celle du Gouvernement Marocain.

(Signé) HAMED-BEN-MUSA-BEN-HAMED.

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* In Arabic translation "arrangement."

† In Arabic translation "things."

Inclosure 3 in No. 147.

French Consul at Mogador to Count Crenneville.

(Extrait.)

LE Gouverneur me fit remarquer qu'il n'avait reçu aucune instruction au sujet de l'établissement du lazaret, ni du Sultan, ni de son Délégué à Tanger; que ce dernier avait remis, à son adresse, une lettre au Dr. Cortès par laquelle il l'informait que celui-ci se rendait à Mogador pour mettre en quarantaine les pèlerins attendus d'un moment à l'autre, et l'invitait à se conformer à ce sujet aux instructions du Sultan; que d'autre part, Sa Majesté Chérifienne lui avait donné l'ordre de faire descendre les pèlerins attendus dans l'Ile de Mogador, où ils seraient soumis à une quarantaine par les soins du Dr. Cortès, de leur fournir des tentes, des provisions, et des médicaments.

Le Gouverneur ajouta qu'il s'était strictement conformé à ces ordres; mais que pour le reste il ne pourrait rien faire de lui-même; qu'il était étonné que le Conseil Sanitaire auquel la lettre, dont était porteur le Dr. Cortès, avait été remise ouverte, n'ait pas insisté pour que Cid Torres donnât des instructions plus complètes, et ne lui transmît pas copie de la lettre par laquelle le Sultan cédait l'Ile de Mogador en vue de l'établissement d'un lazaret, cession et établissement dont il n'avait pas connaissance.

Inclosure 4 in No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sultan's Deputy.

Tanger, le 2 *Septembre*, 1899.

(Après compliments.)

LE Conseil Sanitaire vient de recevoir un télégramme, expédié par voie des Iles Canaries, de leur Délégué sur l'Ile de Mogador, annonçant que les autorités de cette ville ont fait démolir des constructions destinées à servir aux besoins des pèlerins et surtout à abriter l'étuve de désinfection.

Je dois, au nom du Conseil, avertir votre Excellence que les dégats ainsi occasionnés par les autorités de Mogador constituent une perte sérieuse d'argent pour le Trésor de Sa Majesté Chérifienne; et je suis en même temps chargé par le Conseil d'exprimer son étonnement que les autorités de Mogador ont cru devoir procéder à un acte tellement grave. Je vous prie d'envoyer des ordres précis et stricts aux autorités de s'abstenir à l'avenir de tout acte pareil. Nous attendrons le rapport détaillé du Dr. Cortès sur l'incident grave qui vient de se passer afin de juger quelles démarches seraient opportunes à prendre.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON,
Président du Conseil Sanitaire.

No. 148.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 29. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 5, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum and a draft Convention which has been drawn up by the Austro-Hungarian Minister in regard to a reorganization of the Sanitary Council in Morocco.

There are several points in the Memorandum which I should have desired to see modified, or indeed eliminated, as I consider that some injustice is done to the Moorish Government, and that many of the difficulties in the way of a proper hygiene are due to the conflicting jurisdictions in this country, and to an unwillingness on the part of some nationalities to bear their share of the burdens. As, however, my colleagues were generally in favour of the Memorandum, and as they considered that it was merely an explanatory statement to our several Governments, I did not press my objections, though I would beg leave to remark that I do not subscribe to all the criticisms.

It would, undoubtedly, be of great utility, and I may say that it is of urgent necessity, that some bilateral agreement should be made, as the present system is practically unworkable. The Firman which sanctions the existence of the Sanitary Council gives but restricted powers, as your Lordship will observe from the copy of it

which I inclose. Moreover, it is, I think, undesirable that the foreign Representatives should act as Delegates of the Sultan in sanitary or any other matters.

The draft Convention would have to be negotiated by some Minister at Court, as it would be useless for us to discuss the matter with any Representative of the Sultan at Tangier. The matter must be treated directly with the Grand Vizier.

The Italian Minister is proceeding to Court next month, and the opportunity would be a favourable one if the replies from our Governments could arrive in time for him to enter upon the discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

Memorandum by Morocco Sanitary Council.

EN raison des difficultés que le Maghzen n'a cessé d'opposer au Conseil Sanitaire dans l'accomplissement de sa mission et du danger imminent de la peste, conformément, d'ailleurs, au vœu exprimé par la Conférence Internationale de Venise de 1897, Article II,* concernant l'application des résolutions internationales subsistantes dans un pays aussi important à tout égard que l'Empire du Maroc, les Soussignés, membres du Conseil Sanitaire, conscients de leur responsabilité, considèrent comme un devoir de soumettre à leurs Gouvernements un tableau de la situation actuelle et de leur signaler les difficultés qui s'opposent à l'accomplissement de leur tâche.

Le Conseil Sanitaire au Maroc, constitué en vertu du Firman Chérifien du 7 Rabiah I^{er}, 1296 (2 Mars, 1879), est composé de représentants des Puissances étrangères accrédités à Tanger et il exerce ces fonctions en la qualité "d'Organe du Sultan," du libre arbitre duquel dépend du reste l'exécution de ces décisions. Par conséquent les efforts les mieux intentionnés sont souvent stériles, les règlements soigneusement élaborés restent lettre morte à la suite de l'incurie, de la méfiance, et du mauvais vouloir des autorités locales, dont le concours à l'œuvre humanitaire dont il s'agit devrait être assuré.

Si toutefois le Conseil Sanitaire est parvenu à faire observer certaines mesures ayant trait à la navigation, il n'a pas réussi en ce qui concerne l'installation d'un lazaret dans des conditions normales ni le fonctionnement d'un service de santé dans les villes qui en dérivent.

Le Conseil a beau prendre dans de fréquentes et laborieuses séances les résolutions les plus propres à assurer la salubrité dans les ports et sur les côtes du Maroc, tout en tenant compte des circonstances locales et en prenant un soin minutieux et justifié d'ailleurs des coutumes, usages, idées, voire même des préjugés politiques et religieux des habitants du pays, il rencontre à chaque pas des obstacles quasi-insurmontables qui réduisent à bien peu de chose ses desseins et rendent oiseuses ses délibérations.

Il paraît indubitable à quiconque s'est trouvé en rapports suivis avec les hauts fonctionnaires de ce pays, que les principes gouvernementaux aujourd'hui en vigueur au Maroc s'opposeront à toute réforme salutaire aussi longtemps que les mesures que ces réformes demandent ne sera pas l'objet d'un engagement bilatéral entre le Maghzen et les Puissances qui limitera l'action aujourd'hui arbitraire ou négative du Gouvernement Chérifien en matières sanitaires.

Le Maghzen ne se modernisera par lui-même; l'homme d'état Marocain au pouvoir n'est guère accessible aux conseils les mieux intentionnés et les plus désintéressés. L'axiome susmentionné, lequel a été jusqu'ici reconnu généralement que "le Conseil Sanitaire n'est qu'un organe du Sultan" qui de son côté peut sanctionner ou rejeter toute résolution prise, empêche par conséquent non seulement toute activité féconde, mais met en doute son droit d'existence. Il manque aujourd'hui au Conseil Sanitaire l'autorité indispensable et ses attributions ne sont pas clairement définies. C'est en raison des circonstances que nous venons d'exposer et en considérant le déplorable état de choses actuel que nous croyons de notre devoir d'attirer la bienveillante attention de nos Gouvernements

* Conférence Internationale de Venise, Article II:* "Il sera recommandé aux autorités compétentes du Maroc d'appliquer dans les ports de ce pays des mesures en harmonie avec celles prévues dans le règlement sanitaire général pour prévenir l'invasion et la propagation de la peste."

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* It is not an Article of the Convention, but merely a "vœu" of the Conference.

sur la situation qui nous est faite, et de proposer un remaniement radical de l'organisation du Conseil Sanitaire. La position des Représentants des Puissances étrangères comme membres du dit Conseil est actuellement humiliante et ne correspond guére à leur caractère diplomatique.

Pour atteindre le but susindiqué il faudra avant tout en finir avec l'idée que le Conseil n'est qu'un organe du Sultan ainsi que réconstituer tout le service de Santé sur une base plus solide.

Un Règlement Général Sanitaire analogue à celui en vigueur en Égypte et en Turquie, tout en ayant égard à l'individualité du Maroc, paraît être l'unique moyen pour sortir de l'impasse dans laquelle se trouvent actuellement les Représentants des Puissances étrangères comme membres du Conseil dont il est question. C'est la seule solution pratique qui s'impose.

A cet effet les Soussignés ont l'honneur de proposer à leurs Gouvernements une Convention spéciale à conclure entre les Puissances accréditées en ce pays d'une part et Sa Majesté Chérifienne de l'autre. Les négociations y relatives seront ouvertes sans délai et poursuivies au nom des Puissances étrangères par le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger, qui donners ses pleins pouvoirs au premier de ses membres partant pour la capitale.

Cette Convention établira les principes de la constitution du nouveau Conseil Sanitaire sur la base des décisions des Conférences Internationales de Dresde, Paris, et de Venise.

Inclosure 2 in No. 148.

Draft Convention for the Organization of the Sanitary Service in Morocco.

Préambule.

ARTICLE 1. Un Conseil Sanitaire est institué à Tanger, chargé de veiller au maintien de la santé publique; il prendra toutes les mesures hygiéniques et prophylactiques en cas d'épidémie sur le littoral de l'Empire Marocain ainsi que dans les ports de mer et leurs environs immédiats.

Art. 2. Sa Majesté Chérifienne assurera pnr un Firman spécial l'existence et les attributions du Conseil Sanitaire de Tanger et de ses délégations.

Art. 3. Le Conseil Sanitaire sera composé de deux Délégués du Gouvernement Chérifien et d'un Délégué de chaque Puissance accréditée au Maroc.

Art. 4. L'Ile de Mogador est définitivement et uniquement réservée au service quarantenaire, sans préjudice des droits de souveraineté du Sultan. Le Conseil y construira toutes les bâtisses et y fera exécuter tous les travaux qu'il jugera utiles.

Art. 5. Les Représentants des Puissances accréditées à Tanger désigneront chaque année le Président du Conseil et informeront de cette nomination le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Chérifienne.

Art. 6. L'établissement du lazaret à l'Ile de Mogador sera effectué d'après les principes des Conférences Internationales aux frais de Sa Majesté Chérifienne. Le budget annuel des recettes et dépenses sera arrêté par le Conseil et équilibré de façon à ce qu'il ncombe le moins de charges possible à Sa Majesté Chérifienne.

Art. 7. Le fonctionnement intérieur du Conseil sera établi par un Règlement spécial annexé à ia présente Convention.

Art. 8. Les Règlements actuellement en vigueur qui ne sont pas en contradiction avec la présente Convention seront maintenus jusqu'à nouvelle décision. Ceci se réfère également au service de la côte.

Inclosure 3 in No. 148.

Firman.

(Translation.)

PRAISE be to God alone!

There is no strength, nor power, save in God.

Be it known by this letter the honoured, whose commands sublime through Allah are accepted with reverence and great honour, we, by the strength of Allah and his power,

do confirm the commission of the Representatives of the friendly nations who are at the town of Tangier, guarded by Allah, who is exalted, in that in which they were confirmed by our Lord and grandfather, sanctioned by God, respecting the authority given them to act as Deputy to His Majesty, exalted of God, in sanitary matters in connection with giving or refusing pratique to vessels coming to the ports, placing them under quarantine and releasing them in conformity with its Regulations, and this for the sea only and not for land; because they know more about these Regulations, and because our honoured ancestors charged them to do so as evidence of their friendship to our Majesty, exalted of Allah, and their desire for the well-being of the peoples and the preservation of their interests; a full confirmation, and we order all of our Governors and Administrators of our commands who see this to act in accordance with it, and not to exceed it. Our order is issued about this on the 2nd March, 1879, (the 7th Rabia I, 1296).

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 102.)
Tangier, September 5, 1899.

My Lord,

THE Deputy of the Sultan, accompanied by Ben Said, one of His Majesty's Commissioners, called upon me this afternoon, and stated that they had been commissioned by the Moorish Government to speak to the Diplomatic Body in regard to the question of protection, and that they proposed visiting each Minister before commencing discussions on the subject. They intimated that they did not desire to suggest any modification in the Madrid Convention, but they wished to obtain, so far as I could gather, some general engagement that its provisions should be strictly observed, so that the abuses which had arisen with respect to protection should be remedied.

I inquired whether they had any specific complaints to make with regard to the British cases, and they assured me that they had none, but that some Legations had permitted the provisions of the Convention to be misapplied. I remarked that even admitting abuses had arisen, I did not quite see in what manner a statement on the part of the Diplomatic Body that the Convention should be observed would remedy matters, and I invited them to be more explicit. After a little hesitation they gave me to understand that some limitation should be placed on the "mokhalat" system. Ben Said objected to the term, and entered into a somewhat technical discussion that it gave too great an importance to the individual, and that he should be called "servant" or "employé" (mokhalat rather bearing the signification of partner), which terms alone were mentioned in the Madrid Convention.

I told Ben Said that, personally, I saw no objection to altering the terminology, but that "mokhalat" had been used for several years, and was indeed employed by the Grand Vizier. On the certificates they were termed "employés," but this was a very trivial point, and a mere change of the name would not remedy abuses.

Ben Said hinted that "mokhalats" should not be employed by merchants, but merely for agricultural purposes, and stated that he would go more fully into the question on a subsequent occasion.

I am aware that the Grand Vizier has for some time past been contemplating addressing the Powers, through their Representatives here, on the protection system, but I do not think with the object of merely altering phraseology or obtaining academic statements that the Madrid Convention should be observed. His Excellency's views will, I imagine, be seen to have a wider scope when Ben Said develops them more fully.

Protection is undoubtedly a system open to many abuses, but with all its evils it would be difficult to abolish it till some radical reforms were made in the internal administration of the country, and till foreign merchants are assured by real guarantees that their merchandize is secure and that the lives and freedom of their agents will not be endangered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 150.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 103.)
Tangier, September 6, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to state that I hear privately from the Court that the coast-guard vessel which the Moorish Government intend to use on the Riff coast is the cruiser which they had built in Italy. It will be officered and manned, so I am told, entirely by Moors, the officers being selected from those Moors who have been for some years training in the Italian navy. It will be of interest to watch the results of this new venture on the part of the Moorish Government, and its first effort to place a man-of-war exclusively under Moorish command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 151.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, September 15, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 27, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, reporting your proceedings in regard to the lazaret on Mogador Island.

Your action in the matter, as reported in this despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 152.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, September 16, 1899.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 29, Commercial, of the 5th instant, inclosing a Memorandum and a draft Convention which have been drawn up by the Austro-Hungarian Minister in regard to a reorganization of the Sanitary Council in Morocco.

In reply, I request you to do all that is possible to prevent needless expense on the part of the Council, and to be careful that no expression is used to the Shereefian Government indicating the possibility of a resort on the part of Her Majesty's Government to forcible measures in any shape

I concur with you in thinking that advantage might be taken of the proposed visit of the Italian Minister to the Shereefian Court next month to open the discussion with the Grand Vizier as to the proposed Convention for the reorganization of the Moorish Sanitary service.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Foreign Office, September 16, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from Sir A. Nicolson,* Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, forwarding a communication from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida with regard to the extension of the French postal service in Morocco.

* No. 137.

In this communication Mr. Consul Maclean raises the question of a similar extension of the British postal service in that country, and Sir A. Nicolson states that he is prepared to consult the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject, should it be thought advisable to do so.

Before returning a reply to Sir A. Nicolson, Lord Salisbury would be glad to have any observations which Mr. Secretary Chamberlain may have to offer with regard to this suggestion.

Copies of the correspondence on this subject will be forwarded to the Post Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 154.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 7, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of the reply which I have received from the Grand Vizier to my communication respecting the debts due to British merchants at Saffi.

The reply was a very prompt one, having regard to the usual dilatory methods of the Moorish Government, and I will endeavour to keep the matter before his Excellency, who seems, for the moment, disposed to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.) *August* 21, 1899.

WE have received your letter again referring to the pending claims of British subjects at Saffi, and pointing out the losses suffered by the merchants from the delay in their settlement, and there is no reason for further delay. You point out as a friend that the necessary steps must be taken to effect a speedy settlement in accordance with the request you formerly made that the debtors be sent to Saffi in order that the claims be investigated, and that the debtors be heard, and that orders be issued to this effect to the Governors before you send a person on your behalf to assist those appointed by the Mahkzen in Saffi to investigate these claims, &c. We brought the aforesaid to the knowledge of our Lord, and His Majesty has taken note of it. Your letter was received with attention, and His Majesty ordered me to reply to you that as it happens that the Governors of the debtors are at the Shereefian Court, they shall not leave until the Government has settled with them a mode of procedure in the matter of these claims, and arranged for compelling payment afterwards of the sums duly proved to be due, and you will please God be informed of the substance of what is arranged.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 155.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 30. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to state that the Sanitary Council has received the Report of Dr. Cortès, relative to the destruction of the edifices erected by him on Mogador Island. I beg leave to transmit a summary of that report, as well as translations of the correspondence between Dr. Cortès and the local authorities.

A meeting of the Sanitary Council was held yesterday, and I submitted to my colleagues the reports which had been received. It was considered advisable to address a note to the Grand Vizier requesting explanations as to what had occurred, and stating that we expected a speedy repayment of the expenses which had been incurred. I beg leave to transmit a copy of this communication.

As there is no news of any pilgrim ship being on its way here, although telegraphic inquiries have been made at Alexandria, Tripoli, and Tor, it was considered prudent to recall Dr. Cortès and his staff to Tangier, both for economical and other reasons. Instructions have consequently been sent to him to that effect.

The recent incidents at Mogador have been very unfortunate and indicate the necessity of a clear and definite understanding being come to with the Moorish Government as to the lazaret and other sanitary matters. I should state that at yesterday's meeting none of my colleagues showed any disposition to take up the question in a violent manner; and I think they are now of opinion that much of what has occurred is due to a misunderstanding and to the omission to clearly inform the Moorish Government in the first instance of the intentions of the Sanitary Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Summary of Dr. Cortès' Reports.

BEING forbidden to land on the island any building material, or to employ any native labour, I proceeded with my own staff and the workmen I had brought from Tangier, to erect the wooden huts. I succeeded in erecting eight of these, and in putting together twelve others.

The Governor complained vehemently on hearing of this, and ordered the Kaïd on the island to pull down and unship all the huts. The Kaïd failed to proceed to this act of violence, and declined to carry out the order. He was, therefore, put in prison; and an officer, possessed of more energy, accomplished the task in the evening, when we were all resting. On my inquiring of him why he had committed this act of violence he told me to ask the Governor.

I landed at Mogador, and visited the Governor, who said he had merely carried out an order from the Moorish Government, and he had also to request me to leave the island. I begged him to put his request in writing. I then visited the Senior Consul, and asked him to call a meeting of the Consular Body in order to inform them of what had occurred. The majority of the Consular Body subsequently wrote a letter of protest to the Governor.

On returning to the island I found that all works for making preparations for the reception for any future pilgrims was at a standstill; and a Moorish mason had been sent by the Governor to wall up the door of the prison.

I consider that any future negotiations or strategy with local authorities are useless; and I have succeeded in preventing any collisions between the Christian workmen and the Moorish soldiers. I have not allowed myself to be influenced by the threats that the tribes round Mogador would rise, but I consider it wiser to remain in passive inactivity.

September 3.—I received a written order to leave the island, to which I complied. Copies of the correspondence are inclosed herewith. This morning, consequently, myself and the staff left the island, and are now in the town of Mogador.

August 30, 1899.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Mogador Authorities to Dr. Cortès.

(Translation.) 24 *Rabia II*, 1317 (*September* 1, 1899).

THE matter as to which you came here, and as to which we received orders from the Sultan to permit you to do, related to the hadjis; and that which concerns them is finished, and they have returned to their homes. Come then and

reside in the town until other pilgrims arrive; and we have prepared a suitable house for your residence until the arrival of the pilgrims whom you are expecting. Otherwise if you wish to go to Tangier, that is your affair; but it is not fitting that you remain on the island when there are no pilgrims there. We inform you of this so that you may send an immediate reply.

(Signed) MAHOMMED-EL-HADJ.
AHMED BERADA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 155.

Dr. Cortès to Kaïd Mohammed-el-Hadj and Amin Ahmed Berada.

(Translation.) [*No date.*]

I HAVE received your letter of the 24 Rabia II, instructing me to leave the island. Politeness demands that I should obey what His Shereefian Majesty orders, and which you have communicated to me. I accept what you say. As you have prepared a house for my residence, I beg you out of your great goodness to send me to-morrow morning at 7 A.M., two boats, so that I and my personnel may land with our effects, and I beg you to permit them to reside in the house with me. Take care of the materials, tools, &c., and of the constructions which have not been destroyed.

Inclosure 4 in No. 155.

Tangier Sanitary Board to Grand Vizier.

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Tangier, le* 12 *Septembre*, 1899.

LE Conseil Sanitaire vient d'être informé d'un fait grave qui vient de se produire sur l'Ile de Mogador. Le médecin du Conseil Sanitaire annonce que les constructions qu'il était en train d'ériger pour recevoir les pèlerins ont été toutes démolies par les autorités locales, et que lui-même a reçu l'ordre des Oomana de quitter l'île avec tout son personnel.

Le Conseil Sanitaire désire savoir au plus tôt possible de votre Excellence quelles raisons ont motivé des ordres si inattendus, et dont le Gouvernement Marocain aura à supporter toute la responsabilité.

Le Conseil Sanitaire, aussitôt qu'il a reçu les comptes détaillés des dépenses faites pour préparer l'Ile de Mogador pour la réception des hadjis, préparatifs rendus infructueux à cause de l'action des autorités locales, vous informera du montant, afin d'être remboursé sans délai par le Gouvernement Marocain.

Paix, &c.

No. 156.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of the 21st ultimo, relative to the Regulations which the Moorish Government proposes to establish in regard to communication with the Riff coast, the Spanish Minister has pointed out that if the Riff boats were absolutely prohibited from navigation the measure would practically result in preventing several Riff tribes from exchanging products at Melilla and Tetuan. They would be unable to bring their goods overland to those ports owing to want of roads and the intertribal feuds; and thus not only would the Riffians be deprived of certain necessaries of existence, but the trade of Tetuan and Melilla would suffer.

On inquiring of the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, he informed me that these objections had a considerable foundation in fact; and, indeed, the Moorish Commissioner himself, with whom I also communicated, admitted that the prohibition against the Riff boats trading, if made absolutely general, would cause great inconvenience and hardship.

I find all my colleagues agreed in desiring to assist the Moorish Government in its efforts to effectually suppress piracy, and also to interdict illicit and contraband trade with the Riff coast. At the same time, in view of the peculiar conditions of the Riff trade, they consider it desirable that some facilities should be accorded to legitimate trade, under a certain control.

The XXVth Article of the Spanish Treaty with Morocco of the 20th November, 1861, provides as follows: "In order to avoid the abuses which may arise from the free navigation of the Riffian 'carabos' the two Contracting Parties have agreed that the masters or patrons of the said boats shall provide themselves with a passport from the Governors of Spanish fortresses on the coast of the Mediterranean, or from the Spanish Consuls, when they shall fit out in a port where one of these Agents resides; the said document shall be delivered to them gratis and shall serve as a safe conduct for their 'legitimate traffic.'"

The proposed Regulations of the Moorish Government would, therefore, M. de Ojeda considers, be contrary to the above stipulation.

M. de Ojeda has drawn up a Memorandum, copy of which I beg leave to transmit, setting forth the points on which the Representatives might agree, and submit to their respective Governments, as forming a basis for identic replies to the Moorish Government.

My colleagues are in general agreement with the propositions laid down in the Memorandum, but I do not know whether your Lordship would be disposed to authorize the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan to grant the certificates mentioned in Point 4, which is practically a transcript of Article XXV of the Spanish Treaty. Personally, I should think it would be preferable if the Moorish authorities were to license certain Riff boats to transport goods to and from certain indicated localities on the Riff coast where Customs officials would be established.

The French Minister has some hesitation in according to the Moorish cruiser the right to bring a foreign vessel, actually found in the act of contraband trade on the Riff coast, into the nearest port to be dealt with by the competent Consular authorities. It is the only measure which could effectually prevent a contraband trade in arms and munitions, a trade which on occasions has been fairly actively pursued; and it would seem somewhat arbitrary to prohibit the Moorish Government from exercising in its own waters, the right of suppressing an illicit commerce.

I should be grateful to be favoured with your Lordship's views on the whole question, as my colleagues will also consult their Governments, and it is desirable that we should arrive at an understanding on the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Memorandum by Señor Ojeda.

Points généraux sur lesquels les Représentants pourraient se mettre d'accord pour la réponse à faire à la note de Sid Benasser Ghannam du 8 *Rabbiah II*, 1317.

1. LES Représentants sont unanimes dans leur appréciation des efforts très louables que fait le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour éviter la reproduction d'actes de piraterie sur les côtes du Riff.

2. Ils ne peuvent cependant donner leur assentiment aux mesures que le Maghzen se propose de mettre en vigueur, en ce qui concerne la prohibition absolue de la navigation dans ces parages, car cette prohibition annulle de fait le commerce d'importation et d'exportation dans lesquels sont intéressés les capitaux étrangers. Ces mesures sont aussi contraires aux stipulations consignées dans quelques Traités relatives à la navigation des bâtiments étrangers et indigènes sur les côtes du Riff.

3. Les Représentants, désireux neanmoins de faciliter la surveillance des autorités Marocaines dans ces parages, renouveleront aux capitaines et patrons de bâtiments de leur nationalité la prohibition de trafiquer sur les côtes du Riff. Les bâtiments étrangers pris en flagrant délit de contravention à la disposition antérieure, seront remorqués ou escortés jusqu'au port le plus voisin par un garde-côte de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, et les Consuls respectifs dans ce port jugeront et puniront ces infractions d'après les lois régissant en la matière dans la nation à laquelle appartiendront les contrevenants.

4. Les Représentants, toujours dans le même but de faciliter la surveillance aux autorités Marocaines, sont prêts à délivrer des certificats aux patrons des bâtiments indigènes qui importeront ou exporteront pour le compte des ressortissants étrangers les denrées provenant ou en destination du Riff, et ayant payé les droits d'importation ou d'exportation présentes dans les douanes de Sa Majesté Chérifienne.

5. Les Représentants, en vue d'éviter au Maghzen les dépenses, les ennuis, et peut-être même les conflits inhérents à ce système de vigilance appliqués à des côtes aussi étendues et si difficiles à garder, sont d'avis de conseiller au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Chérifienne de désigner quelques points sur la côte du Riff où ses habitants pourront se livrer aux opérations d'un commerce licite sous les yeux des autorités Marocaines, et dans les mêmes conditions imposées à ce commerce dans les autres régions de l'Empire.

Tanger, ce 6 Septembre, 1899.

No. 157.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received September* 23.)

Sir, *Downing Street, September* 22, 1899.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant with its inclosures, and to request you to inform the Marquess of Salisbury that he has called for the observations of the Governor of Gibraltar on the suggestion made by the British Consul at Daralbaida to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, that the British postal service in Morocco should be extended so as to keep up with the improved French service which has been instituted.

2. A further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of the Governor's reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 16, 1899.

THE Moorish Commissioner, Abdallah-ben-Saïd, called upon me this morning and informed me that he had received instructions to refer again to the question of an indemnity to the Moorish Government on account of the expenses to which it had been put by the "Tourmaline" expedition.

The following is a summary of what Ben Saïd laid before me: That it was indisputable that the "Tourmaline" went to the Sus coast to assist the tribes to rebel; that the Moorish Government had proofs that efforts had been specially made to induce Sidi Hasheen, a powerful Susi Chief, to join in the movement; that the Moorish Government had been put to great expense in suppressing the agitation which had consequently been caused; that whenever Moorish subjects caused injuries to foreign subjects by illegal acts, heavy indemnities were exacted from the Moorish Government; and that all it asked now was reciprocal treatment. Ben Saïd further stated that though the servants of the Company had been punished, the Syndicate was primarily responsible for the grave offence which had been committed, and that the Moorish Government must look to Her Majesty's Government to afford just and adequate compensation, which should be obtained from the Globe Venture Syndicate. I replied to Ben Saïd in the sense of my note to the Grand Vizier of the 1st December, 1898, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 164 of the same date. I further pointed out to Ben Saïd that the indemnities which had been paid by the Moorish Government were, generally speaking, on account either of oppressive acts by Government officials on foreign subjects, or in consequence of crimes perpetrated by Moorish subjects, and for which no redress could be obtained. There was no parallel between such cases and that of the "Tourmaline." In the latter case the Government had done all that it was legally possible for it to do, and that beyond those limits, however earnest might be the goodwill and sympathetic feelings, it was impossible for a Government to pass.

Ben Saïd pressed urgently for adequate compensation, and intimated that it was unjust that a deliberate attempt to incite rebellion in a friendly State should practically be left unpunished, and that the instigators could neither be prosecuted nor even made to reimburse the Moorish Government for the expenditure which their illegal action had necessitated.

The conversation lasted for some time, and I concluded by stating that I would submit his arguments faithfully to your Lordship, though I did not anticipate that any answer would be possible other than that which I had already communicated to the Grand Vizier.

No specific amounts were stated to me by Ben Saïd, but I gather that the Moorish Government considers itself entitled to at least 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.*

Kaïd Maclean is shortly coming here on his way to England, and he informs me that there are several matters on which the Grand Vizier desires him to speak to me. Very possibly the question of indemnities may form one, and in any case I should like to ascertain from Kaïd Maclean whether the Grand Vizier is really in earnest in pressing for a compensation. I would therefore respectfully request your Lordship to await a further communication from me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 19, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke regarding affairs on the Riff territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Tetuan, September* 16, 1899.

I REGRET to have to report that I hear there is great disquiet in the Riff country.

The officer in charge of the Moorish Government forces there is said to be demanding a great deal of money from the various tribes in his neighbourhood, and he is also said to have demanded men to serve as soldiers. The Riffian who gives me the information says that they have never yet supplied soldiers for the Sultan, and will all sooner die than do so.

One or two of the tribes are also said to be unsettled internally as to who shall rule over them, and fighting amongst themselves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Tetuan, September* 16, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report that the district of El Khamass, which has hitherto been under a separate jurisdiction of its own, has been placed by His Sublime Majesty the Sultan under the Governor of this district.

The town of Chechouen, which is under this jurisdiction, but has a Deputy-Governor of its own, has long been troubled by the Khamass people, who only recently, it is said, cut off the water from the town and cut down a good many of the fruit trees and vines. It is having to pass through the Khamass district that makes communication from here with Chechouen so bad.

The Khamass people are, I understand, divided into five sections or tribes. Ci Abdelkarim Lebadi was appointed by the Governor to proceed to Chechouen, summon the principal people of El Khamass, and read the Shereefian letter to them announcing the change of rules.

Ci A. Lebadi has now returned, and I understand he reports that the Khamass people accept this arrangement; but as, at the same time, I understand, he was not able to persuade them to make peace with Ghomara, with whom they are fighting, it does not promise well for the future tranquillity of this country.

The Ghomara are a powerful people with a large district, and I gather that they are divided into nine sections or tribes. I am told that all the sections on both sides are engaged in fighting.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 160.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Foreign Office, September 26, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco,* relative to certain measures which the Moorish Government desire to take on the Riff coast, and inclosing a Memorandum drawn up by the Spanish Minister in Morocco to form the basis of identic replies from the Representatives of the Powers at Tangier.

I am to request that Lord Salisbury may be favoured with their Lordships' views respecting the certificates mentioned under the fourth heading of the Memorandum, and generally with any observations which they may wish to offer on the subject of the proposal made by the Moorish Government and the suggested reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 109.)

Tangier, September 22, 1899.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 105 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that some Moorish authorities are leaving to-day for Italy to take over the cruiser which has been built in an Italian yard for the Moorish Government. The greater portion of the future crew has arrived from various ports on the coast, and the vessel is to be put into commission as soon as possible.

I am informed confidentially that the French Legation has intimated to the Grand Vizier that there is a document in their archives from the late Sultan engaging that if an order were given to Italy for a cruiser a similar commission would be allotted to France.

His Excellency is disposed to contest that such an assurance would be binding on the present Sultan; but I do not think that the French Legation has made any great point of the matter.

I believe that when the Concession was first given to Italy the chief objections on the part of the French Legation were that the vessel would be commanded and officered by Italians and that it was decided in that event to insist on a ship being similarly placed under French control.

As the new cruiser will have no Europeans on board, it is probable that the French Legation will allow the matter to rest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Nos. 138 and 156.

No. 162.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 110. Very Confidential.)

Tangier, September 22, 1899.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to inform your Lordship that the health of the Sultan is not in a satisfactory condition, and that it would appear that His Majesty is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic fever, and that be has had some fainting fits, which would seem to imply that the heart is affected.

The English doctor at the Court received a private message from the Grand Vizier requesting him to prescribe for a personage, whose symptoms apparently indicated the illness above referred to; and on Dr. Verdon stating that he would like to see the patient before prescribing, he was told that the matter had to be kept such a profound secret that no doctor would be called in till matters became critical.

Eventually Dr. Verdon sent some medicine, and he was privately informed that the patient was the Sultan.

The Vizier has requested Dr. Verdon to come and reside near him, so as to be ready to be called in at a moment's notice.

Although the Sultan is young in years, the life which he leads, secluded from the world and taking little or no exercise, has affected his general health, and I am told that his corpulence has greatly increased since I saw him in 1896.

Should his Majesty's illness take an unfavourable turn and end fatally the consequences will be very serious, as there is little doubt that disorders will break out all over the country and general anarchy will ensue.

It is considered probable that the Grand Vizier, at His Majesty's demise, would promptly proclaim one of the Sultan's brothers Sovereign, and there are several of these Princes at Morocco city living in a retired and unostentatious manner in the palace, and unknown to the public.

The army, if gratified with generous presents, might support the new Sultan, but other members of the reigning family and Court functionaries would probably not acquiesce in the accession, and many of the tribes would not be willing to accept a nominee of the Grand Vizier, under whose administration they have been ground down and impoverished till exhaustion has produced a seeming tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 163.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 111.)

Tangier, September 23, 1899.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 8 of the 17th January last I referred to the report that the French Vice-Consul at Saffi had been exceptionally active in distributing certificates of protection, and I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the First Secretary of the French Legation has been down the coast inquiring into the matter, and into some other alleged delinquencies on the part of the French Consular Agent at Mazagan.

The French Minister told me that both the above officers were the only two unpaid French Consular officials in Morocco, and from what he had learnt it would appear they had been guilty of serious derelictions of duty. He hoped to be able to have them replaced by officials in the regular Consular Service.

I am told privately that the Grand Vizier is much gratified at the French Legation taking up so actively the question of the improper issue of protection certificates, and considers it a specially friendly act. I am also informed that he recently received a letter from Dr. Linares, who is at present on leave of absence at Paris, stating that he had been commissioned to convey friendly assurances from the President of the French Republic of the deep interest taken by France in the welfare and prosperity of the Sultan and his Government.

These incidents have, for the moment, somewhat allayed the distrust which the Grand Vizier entertains of French policy in Morocco; but his Excellency still considers that the real danger to Morocco lies on the side of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 164.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September 23, 1899.*

I AM informed that some delegates have arrived at the Moorish Court from a place called Milha, which lies south-east of Shinghit in the Advar district, and reported that a large French expedition was about five days' journey from the above-mentioned town. These men met the Shereef of Shinghit on his way back from Morocco city, and he dispatched them on to see the Grand Vizier.

They have come on behalf of their fellow tribesmen to request the assistance of the Moorish Government, either materially or by intercession with the French authorities, in obtaining the withdrawal of the strangers. The distance of Milha from the Moorish frontier is so great that the Grand Vizier did not entertain the suggestion to send material assistance; but I am told that he has written to the French Minister in accordance with the request of the tribesmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 165.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received October 3.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, September 30, 1899.*

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, forwarding papers relative to certain measures which the Moorish Government desire to take on the Riff coast, and asking for the observations of the Board thereupon, and especially as to clause 4 of the Spanish Minister's Memorandum.

With regard to the proposal contained in this clause, that certificates should be issued to masters of native craft by the Representatives of foreign countries, the Board desire me to state that, in their opinion, it would be preferable for the Moorish authorities to grant these certificates, as Sir A. Nicolson suggests in his despatch of the 12th instant.

If, however, the Representatives of the other Powers concerned should strongly prefer to retain clause 4 in its present form, the Board will advise, in view of the comparative unimportance of the matter so far as British trade is concerned, that Her Majesty's Representative should be instructed to concur with the views of his colleagues.

I am ,&c.
(Signed) A. E. BATEMAN.

No. 166.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September 28, 1899.*

A BELGIAN gentleman, named M. Défosse, accompanied by two of his compatriots, arrived here a few days ago, and the local press announced that they were on an official mission to the Court of Morocco with a view of obtaining some large concessions from the Moorish Government. M. Défosse called recently on the Spanish Minister, who is acting doyen of the Diplomatic Body, and denied that he and his friends were intrusted

with any official mission. He stated that they represented a group of Belgian capitalists, who were desirous of finding in Morocco some profitable investments for their surplus capital. After consultation with residents here they had come to the conclusion that it would be useless, at the present moment, to ask for railways or mines; but they thought that there was an excellent opening in Tangier for the employment of capital. M. Défosse stated that Tangier was admirably suited for a winter and summer resort, and that he would like to obtain concessions for organizing a good system of water supply and drainage, and also for electric tramways, as well as for modern first-class hotels.

M. de Ojeda circulated among the Diplomatic Body the report of his interview with M. Défosse, and suggested that we should all meet that gentleman, hear a fuller explanation of his projects, and, if necessary, give him our assistance. I have demurred to this proposal to accord an official reception, and possibly an official sanction, to a private foreign enterprise; though I stated that if he (Défosse) would supply me with a written Memorandum on the schemes he had in view, I should be ready to receive it "à titre de renseignement." I do not see why the Diplomatic Body as a whole, or this Legation in particular, should take an active part in promoting the projects of a foreign Company of which we have no information. I notice that it is termed "Le Développement Marocain," with its "siège social" at Brussels. And M. Défosse inscribes on his cards that he is an engineer, and Director of the Society of the Riga–Cherson Canal.

No doubt a profitable speculation could be made by the transformation of Tangier into a modern watering-place; but personally, in view of the political conditions, both present and in the near future, of Morocco, I should deprecate the introduction of foreign vested interests in this portion of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 167.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1899.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 108 of the 22nd ultimo, suggesting that you should take no steps with regard to the request of the Moorish Government for compensation on account of the "Tourmaline" expedition until the Moorish Commissioner returns to the question, and that you should then explain once more the impossibility of meeting their wishes.

The course which you propose to take in the matter has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 168.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 82.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1899.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 113 of the 28th ultimo, informing me of the visit to Tangier of M. Défosse, and of the suggestion made by the Spanish Minister that the Diplomatic Body should meet M. Défosse, hear an explanation of his projects, and if necessary give him assistance.

I approve the course adopted by you, as reported in your despatch, with regard to M. de Ojeda's suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1899.

INFORMATION has reached me from Fez that the tribes in the district of Sefroo are in a disturbed condition, and that fighting has been taking place between the Beni Siddon, the Beni Wairain, and the Beni Jasigha on the one hand, and the Aits Yusi on the other. The three first-mentioned tribes have been successful in the encounters, and it is said that they have bound themselves by oath to kill the Governor, Kaïd Omar, who recently left Fez to attack them with some troops. The father of Kaïd Omar, who was also Governor of the Sefroo district, was captured and burnt alive by rebellious tribes. Kaïd Omar is one of the most powerful of provincial Governors, and in high favour at the Court, as he supplies the Grand Vizier with considerable sums of money.

The present season, the interval between harvesting and ploughing, is usually a period of unrest and disturbance; but as soon as the rains come and ploughing operations commence, it is to be hoped that the tribes will assume peaceful avocations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 170.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1899.

IN your despatch No. 105 of the 12th ultimo relative to the regulations which the Moorish Government propose to establish in regard to communications with the Riff Coast, you inclosed a Memorandum drawn up by M. de Ojeda as a basis for identic replies from the Diplomatic Representatives at Tangier to the proposals submitted to them.

Subject to the withdrawal by the French Minister of the objections raised by him as reported in your despatch, you are authorized to concur in M. de Ojeda's suggestions.

It would be preferable that the certificates mentioned in the fourth clause of the Memorandum should be issued, as you have yourself suggested, by the Moorish authorities rather than by the Representatives of foreign countries.

Should you, however, find that your colleagues strongly prefer to retain the clause in its present form, you may, in view of the small importance, comparatively, of the matter to British trade, concur in their views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 171.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 12.)

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 11, 1899.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar submitting his observations on the suggestion made by the British Consul at Dar-al-Baida to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier for the extension of the British postal service in Morocco.

2. Mr. Chamberlain is aware of no reason, so far as this Department is concerned, for differing from the views expressed by Sir R. Biddulph in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

No. 169.*

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 2, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, respecting the grave ill-treatment of a female slave who had taken refuge at the British Vice-Consulate at Saffi.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot has great experience of the country, and is doubtless animated by the most humane motives, still I think it is to be regretted that he sent the woman to the Governor to be sold by auction, after she had a second time taken refuge at the Consulate. It seems to me that it would have been possible to have devised some means of insuring the immunity of the unfortunate woman from further ill-treatment, and that the protection for which she again applied should not have been denied her. Moreover, by requesting the Governor to put the woman up for sale, a course was suggested which it has been continually our object to mitigate or prevent.

I think it would have been possible to have retained the woman at the Consulate, as the case was an exceptionally cruel one, and endeavoured to come to some arrangement which would have resulted in her manumission.

I hardly think the matter should be allowed to rest where it is, and I inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject. The case is now a difficult one to deal with, but I submit some protest in an unofficial form should be entered, and that it should be made clear to his Excellency that acts such as those reported, if committed with impunity, do not redound to the credit of Moorish administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169*.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 121.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, September* 29, 1899.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, which relates how a negress sought sanctuary at the Vice-

Consulate from the cruelty of her owner, a young Moor, named M'hamed Wold Skory of Saffi, and how, in spite of every effort on the part of the Vice-Consul, she was savagely beaten and sent in irons into the interior.

Mr. Hunot tells the story in such detail that it would be only wearisome to you for me to repeat it.

I venture to observe, however, that, through his humane action on behalf of the negress, the Vice-Consul was subjected to the impudent defiance of her master, for which the Governor seemed powerless to give any satisfaction.

On account of slaves often taking sanctuary at the Vice-Consulate, Mr. Hunot concludes his despatch by asking for guidance for the future. I am replying that I have laid his despatch before you. I approve of his action in the present case, and I admit that his powers are very limited, but that he should continue to use his influence to soften the evils of the Slave Trade in the way that his knowledge of native character and custom, and that his own tact, may suggest to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169*.

Vice-Consul Hunot to Consul Maclean.

Sir, *Saffi, September* 23, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report a case of great cruelty practised on an unfortunate negress named Fatimah, who had claimed protection at this Vice-Consulate. She came crying, having escaped from the cruel hands of her master, a young Moor of the name of M'hamed Wold Skory of Saffi.

I first tried to bring about a reconciliation with her master, she having two sons in slavery with M'hamed Skory's family. The master promised he would treat her better in future if she would only return to his house. I recommended her to return. She did so; but, a few days after, she came to my house again almost naked, and complained of still worse treatment.

I then sent my soldier with her to the Kaïd that she might explain to his Excellency the vile treatment she had received, and with a request that her wish to change ownership to escape further cruelty might be complied with, and asking him to see that she was sold in town in order not to be far away from her two sons, one of whom, in tears, implored me to do what I could for her.

The Kaïd then ordered an auctioneer to sell her; she was kept for sale several days, and some respectable Moors bid for her, as she is known to be a good domestic servant and has been many years with the Skory family.

Their bids, which were *bonâ fide*, were rejected by order of the owner, who swore she should be sold in the interior.

The owner then made a sham sale, at an exorbitant price, to a Moor in town, a friend of his of the name of Wold Abderahman-el-Wazzani, who obtained possession of the poor woman by promising me and the Kaïd that he intended to keep her and treat her well, and would only sell her in town.

The poor woman tried also to escape from this man's cruelty, who, it appears, was in league with his friend, the real owner, stating that he had beaten her and kept her several days imprisoned in a room without food.

I have since heard that she was beaten unmercifully by the real owner and sham buyer, with the aid of street porters, and reviled for having taken protection with the Christians, and has been carried away secretly in chains to Morocco for sale there, in defiance of his promises to myself and the Governor.

The unfortunate creature has been savagely tortured for having attempted to take protection at this Vice-Consulate with the object of obtaining a change of master, and for my having pleaded in vain on her behalf for the cause of humanity.

I reminded the Kaïd that there is a Shereefian letter issued by the late Sultan to his predecessor enjoining the forcible change of ownership whenever a case of severe cruelty on the part of the owner of a slave was established, which is also in accordance with Shrâa.

He declares he has no letter to this effect, although I have repeatedly cited that

his brother, his predecessor, had acted upon the order on several occasions when inhuman treatment was proved.

I believe that if a repetition of this Shereefian letter were obtainable it would strengthen the hands of the Kaïd, who seems at present reluctant to act in any way against cruel slave owners.

I have frequent cases of cruelty brought to my notice and also frequent applications on the part of slaves, who sometimes take protection at my Consular residence.

I can do nothing for them when the Kaïd is reluctant to act, and I should like to know whether I ought to interfere or have them turned away.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. HUNOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 169*.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hamed-ben-Moussa-ben-Hamed.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, October* 2, 1899.

I DESIRE, in a private manner, to bring to your Excellency's notice the following case. A negress named Fatimah, some short time ago, came to the British Vice-Consulate at Saffi, claiming protection, and stating that she had been severely ill-treated by her master, M'hamed Wold Skory of Saffi. The British Vice-Consul communicated with her master, who promised that if she returned to his house he would treat her well and kindly. On this undertaking, the British Vice-Consul recommended the woman to return to her master, and she did so. A few days later she again came to the Vice-Consulate, almost naked, and complaining that her master, far from fulfilling his promise, had treated her even worse than before. Upon this the Vice-Consul sent the woman, with one of his soldiers, to the Kaïd to explain her case, and request, as provided by Shrâa, that a change of masters should be made.

The Kaïd caused the woman to be put up for sale, and various respectable Moors wished to purchase her; but the original owner arranged that a friend of his, Wold Abdurahman-el-Wazzani, should bid an exorbitant price for her. This latter individual promised the Kaïd and the Vice-Consul that he would keep her and treat her kindly. It appears, however, that Wold Abdurahman-el-Wazzani and the original owner beat the unfortunate woman most unmercifully, and imprisoned her in a room for some days without food for having complained to a foreign Consulate. They have caused her to be carried away in chains to Marakesh to be sold there, although an engagement had been given to the Kaïd that she should only be sold in Saffi.

These are the melancholy facts which I wish to bring privately to your Excellency's private attention, and I would ask you if some measures cannot be taken to prevent such reprehensible acts. Your Excellency knows well the efforts which many Governments and nations are making to suppress slavery, the traffic in human beings, and you will understand that acts such as I have related to you will, when known, seriously affect the reputation and good fame of any Government who permits them to occur with impunity.

Your Excellency has a good opportunity in this case, as the details and the names are known to you, of showing your marked disapproval of what has occurred, and I have no doubt that you will lose no time in not only preserving the woman from further ill-treatment, and in punishing those who have so cruelly misused her, but also in granting her manumisssion and freedom from all further risks of similar sufferings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir, *Gibraltar, October* 4, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 83 of the the 22nd ultimo asking for observations on the suggestion of Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida for an extension of the Gibraltar postal service in the interior of Morocco.

2. I gather from the despatch of Her Majesty's Minister to Morocco, a copy of which accompanies your despatch under reply, that Sir Arthur Nicolson does not think that there is likely to be any great political advantage to be gained by the extension, and as the increased expense would be out of proportion to any probable increase of business, I do not think that it would be desirable at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BIDDULPH,
General and Governor.

No. 172.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 4, 1899.

THE United States' Representative told me yesterday that a difficulty had arisen between his Legation and the Moorish Government in regard to the treatment of some American medical missionaries at Mequinez. The latter had occupied a house in the Jewish quarter of the town, and finding it unhealthy had requested the Governor to supply them with a more suitable one in another part. The Governor promised to do so, and, in the meantime, asked the missionaries to reside in some tents which he had provided.

After some time the Governor said no house could be found, and stated he would no longer permit them to live in the tents, which he took away from them. The missionaries were thereupon compelled to return temporarily to their old house; but finding they were being subjected to insults, they came to Tangier and laid their complaint before the Consulate-General.

The latter has been unable hitherto to obtain any redress or satisfaction from the Moorish authorities; and, under instructions from his Government, the United States' Representative has now sent a note to the Grand Vizier demanding, by virtue of the Treaties, that a suitable residence be at once found for the missionaries, and that apologies should be made for the treatment to which they had been subjected. There are many vacant houses in Mequinez, and the missionaries are quite prepared to pay a good rent, but the Moorish authorities there, as elsewhere, place every possible difficulty in the way of foreigners residing or acquiring property even on lease, in any place in the interior.

Mr. Gummevé tells me that next month an American squadron is going to Cadiz to salute the Spanish flag; and if the above case has not been satisfactorily settled by then, he has suggested to his Government that it should also pay a visit to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 10, 1899.

I AM informed that arrangements are practically completed for the establishment of a German postal service in Morocco, and that a gentleman has arrived who will be in charge of the Post Office in Tangier.

I hardly think that the new service will be a remunerative one, as there is not sufficient correspondence in this country to require four postal establishments, and I believe none of the three existing establishments works at a profit. Pecuniary profit was probably not the motive which has led to the establishment of a German postal service, but it is a sign of the increasing attention Germany is giving to this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 174.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 8, 1899.*

THE "North German Gazette" of to-day's date reproduces a Havas telegram stating that a German postal service, with a Central Office at Tangier, will shortly be established in Morocco, by means of which a regular sea-board and inland service will be conducted.

It is further rumoured that a branch of the Berlin Bank will be opened in Tangier before the end of the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 175.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 86.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1899.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 115 of the 2nd instant, reporting the ill-treatment of a female slave who had sought refuge at the British Vice-Consulate at Saffi, and the action taken by Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, and subsequently by you, in the matter.

The terms of the letter addressed by you to the Grand Vizier have my entire approval, and I request that you will not lose sight of the case, but will continue to take any steps you can to obtain the unfortunate woman's manumission.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot was undoubtedly placed in a very difficult position, but while fully recognizing that in his communications with the Governor he was actuated by a desire to take the course most likely to benefit the slave, I agree in the opinion expressed in your despatch that the request for her public sale by auction was regrettable.

Such a request was directly contrary to the policy hitherto pursued by Her Majesty's Government with regard to public sales of slaves in Morocco, and to the representations made to the Moorish Government on the subject from time to time.

Mr. Hunot should be instructed that, in the event of a case of a similar character occurring, his action should be confined to invoking the assistance of the Governor, and to using such influence as he can bring to bear, in order that the slave may be granted manumission or a change of masters, as may seem most advisable.

If no assistance can be obtained from the Governor, the matter should be reported to Her Majesty's Legation, with a view to representations being made to the Grand Vizier in the manner which you may consider proper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 88.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1899.*

YOUR despatch No. 93 of the 18th August last, relative to a suggestion made by Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida that the British postal service in Morocco might be increased, was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which has been received from the Colonial Office in reply,* inclosing a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject.

In view of the opinions expressed by you and by Sir R. Biddulph, Her Majesty's Government do not consider that any advantage would be gained by an extension of the system at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 177.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 16, 1899.*

I AM informed that an Algerian Shereef, named Ahmed Drici, has arrived at Alkazar, on the road between Tangier and Fez, as agent of the "Alliance Française," and that it is his intention to endeavour to carry out the work of that Society in Alkazar and its neighbourhood. He wishes to open boy schools, and give instruction in the French language.

I do not think he will meet with success, and he certainly will not receive any encouragement from the local authorities. The several Missionary Societies in Morocco have established some modest and elementary girls' schools, but they have never ventured to attract boys to their establishments. The education of the Moorish youth is conducted solely in native schools, and any attempt on the part of foreigners to give a wider and more liberal scope to that restricted curriculum would meet with strong opposition on the part of the authorities, and very possibly of the majority of the parents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 178.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 28, 1899.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 118 of the 9th instant inclosing a translation of a note addressed to you by Seyyid Mohammed Torres, in which he requests your intercession for the release of Hamman, the Moorish guard, at present undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad.

I authorize you to inform Seyyid Mohammed Torres in reply that Her Majesty's Government are willing, in view of the official request made by him on behalf of the Moorish Government, to assent to Hamman's liberation on the expiration of seven years of the sentence passed on him.

You should, in communicating this decision to the Sultan's deputy, impress upon him that it has been arrived at in consideration of the elements of instigation in the case, such as the prisoner's comparative ignorance and inexperience, and the practical absence of *malice prepense*, otherwise than presumption of law, on his part.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 171

No. 179.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 21, 1899.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 83 of the 2nd August, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier in regard to the opening of Cape Juby to trade. As his Excellency's communication would seem to indicate a desire to indefinitely postpone the execution of the engagements which the Moorish Government has undertaken, I have addressed a reply to his Excellency of which I beg leave to transmit a copy, and which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 179.

Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *2nd Jumad I*, 1317 (*October* 7, 1899).

WE have received the letter of your Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. White, in reply to what we have written to you regarding the request of some of your merchants that a site be selected for them to build a place of business at the port of Cape Juby stating that delay had occurred in opening a port for trade for your merchants in the said place and your merchants now ask that it may be done quickly in accordance with the 4th and 6th clauses of the Agreement which the honoured Minister, Sir E. Satow, &c.

We brought the foregoing to the knowledge of our Lord, and His Majesty took note of it and ordered me to reply to you that the Makhzen did not refuse to have regard to the two provisions of the agreement referred to, but replied that the necessary arrangements have not yet been made; and the first cause of the delay in giving effect to the arrangement is the absence of inhabitants in that district as there have been a succession of bad years there, and they have raised camp and moved further into the interior where they can procure means of subsistence; and the Makhzen cannot consent to merchants building in places where there are no inhabitants, and exposing their property to loss; and trade can only exist where there are many people, and all the open ports are in populous places; and there is nothing to prevent your merchants from going to them.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 179.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, October* 21, 1899.

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me under date of 1st Jumad II, 1317 (7th October, 1899) in regard to opening Cape Juby to trade, as was agreed upon in the Convention of the 16th Ramadan, 1312 (13th March, 1895).

In reply to the observations which Mr. White was instructed by Her Majesty's Government to make to your Excellency in respect to the long delay which has elapsed in making the necessary arrangements for the proper and due execution of Articles IV and VI of the above-named Convention, you state that there are no inhabitants at Cape Juby, and that merchants had better trade only at those ports which are populated.

I would remark that it is very possible that the inhabitants have moved away, finding that no trade was being carried on, and it is more than likely that they would promptly return if trade were opened at Cape Juby. Moreover, there is no condition in the Agreement as to whether the neighbourhood should be inhabited or not; and as

to whether the trade will be profitable or not it is not for me to discuss, as it is a matter which concerns the merchants alone.

These, however, were not the questions which Mr. White was instructed to lay before your Excellency, and which I desire once more to bring to your serious attention.

The Moorish Government engaged, by Articles IV and VI, to keep Cape Juby open for buying and selling, and also to give sites, under certain conditions, to merchants desiring to trade. Some merchants have, in accordance with these stipulations, made applications for sites, but the Moorish Government has continually delayed to perform their part of the undertaking, and your Excellency, in the communication now under acknowledgment, almost gives me to understand that the Moorish Government wishes to indefinitely postpone fulfilling the engagements which were signed by your Excellency and my predecessor.

I am unwilling to believe that the Moorish Government does not intend faithfully to fulfil its obligations under Convention, and as now considerably over four years has elapsed since the Agreement was signed, I confidently hope that your Excellency will, without further delay, put me in a position to inform Her Majesty's Government that all the necessary arrangements have been completed for opening Cape Juby to trade under the conditions stipulated in the Agreement, and may you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 180.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 122 of the 21st ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note from the Grand Vizier relative to the opening of Cape Juby to trade, together with a copy of the reply addressed by you to his Excellency on the subject.

The terms of your note to Hamed-ben-Moussa have my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 181.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 1, 1899.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 83 of the 9th ultimo, and to my despatch No. 105 of the 12th September, I have the honour to report that the German Minister informed me that he had received instructions in regard to the reply which he was to make to the note of the Moorish Government, respecting police measures on the Riff coast.

I beg leave to inclose a copy of the reply which Baron de Mentzingen intends to communicate; and he explained to me that he had not entered into the details of the question, as Germany was not directly interested in the matter, but that he considered it probable that his Government would agree to any arrangement which the majority of the Powers considered satisfactory.

I inquired of my French colleague whether he had received any instructions in the matter. He replied that he had submitted a draft note to his Government which, while cordially approving the object which the Moorish Government had in view pointed out that in certain particulars, which he specified, the proposed Regulations as they now stood ran counter to the provisions of some Treaties. He, therefore, invited the Moorish authorities to propose some modifications which would remove these objections. M. de Monbel said his Government was considering his note, and when he received instructions he would inform me. He agreed with the five points raised in the Memorandum of the Spanish Minister, inclosed in my despatch No. 105, but he thought that it was for the Moorish Government and not for the foreign Representatives to suggest specific modifications in the Regulations. We should indicate the points to which exception was taken, and leave it to the Moorish Government to

propose alternatives. He did not think there would be any difficulty in coming to a atisfactory arrangement.

I asked M. de Monbel if his Government would agree to the Moorish Government dealing in the manner it proposed with a foreign vessel detected *flagrante delicto* in illicit or contraband trade. He replied that he thought his Government would raise no difficulty on that point.

After these interviews it seemed to me desirable that we should all come to a clear understanding as to what we were submitting to our respective Governments, and I, therefore, circulated among my colleagues a draft note as to which I requested their opinion before submitting it to your Lordship. It is practically drawn on the same lines as that submitted by my French colleague to his Government; it is in the same sense as the reply of the German Minister, while it refers to the points in the Memorandum of the Spanish Minister. No objections to it were raised by any of my colleagues, though some could not pronounce definitely, as they were still awaiting instructions.

I should be glad to have your Lordship's approval of it, as I think it will unite the views of all the Representatives; and I should not propose to communicate it to the Moorish Government until all my colleagues have received final instructions. Should any modifications in it be then required, I would communicate again with your Lordship. I will bear in mind when we eventually discuss details with the Moorish Government the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 83 of the 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Reply of German Minister to Cid Benasser Ghannam's Note.

PERMETTEZ-MOI en réponse à votre communication d'adresser mes félicitations au Haut Gouvernement Chérifien au sujet de sa décision d'attaquer par des mesures énergiques le mal invétéré de la piraterie. Le Gouvernement Impérial a pris connaissance avec vive satisfaction des intentions de Sa Majesté Chérifienne; il regrette seulement que l'application des mesures proposées donne lieu à des objections au point de vue des Traités en vigueur, mais il ne met pas en doute que la haute sagesse du Maghzen ne trouve un moyen acceptable par les Puissances intéressées pour arriver au but proposé sans porter atteinte aux Traités.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

Draft of proposed Note of Sir A. Nicolson to Grand Vizier.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, October* , 1899.

I HAVE received the note which you were good enough to address to me on the 16th August, 1899 (8 Rabia II, 1317), in regard to the measures which the Moorish Government propose to take with a view of suppressing piracy, and preventing contraband trade on the Riff coast. You will readily understand that my Government has heard with much satisfaction that the Moorish Government intends to take steps which will, it is hoped, lead to the extinction of piracy, and I need not add that all legitimate measures to that end have the heartiest good-will of Her Majesty's Government.

The project of placing a guard ship on the Riff coast to maintain order and security in Moorish waters, and to prevent the prosecution of illicit and contraband trade also commends itself to my Government.

At the same time I would point out to your Excellency, that if, as stated in your note all intercourse by sea between the Riff and the ports of Tetuan and Tangier is to be absolutely prohibited, not only will innocent commerce be seriously injured, but also a breach will be made in the stipulations of some Treaties.

Overland trade with the Riff is, as your Excellency is aware, not always possible; and goods which have paid duties in Moorish ports can, in many instances, only reach their destination by sea. No doubt the Moorish Government will take these points into consideration, and while still securing the object it has principally in view, be able to devise such modifications of the proposed Regulations as will remove all objections to them. I should be glad to receive from you any proposals which you may be empowered to make on the above points, so that when the difficulties to which I have drawn your attention are removed, I shall be able to submit the Regulations to my Government for final acceptance. I do not doubt that it will be easily found possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement on the subject.

May you rest, &c.

No. 182.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 5*, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Moorish cruiser "Bachir" arrived here on the 2nd instant from Italy.

The "Bachir" is of 1,100 tons displacement, and with 2,000 horse power. Her armament consists of five 100-millim. Armstrong guns, one 120-millim. Armstrong gun, four machine-guns, and two small field pieces. Her crew at present numbers ninety-five. She was brought here in charge of an Italian Captain and a first mate of the same nationality, and also the engine-room staff was Italian.

The Italian Minister informed me that he had told the Moorish Government that the young Moors who had been trained in the Italian navy were not yet competent to command and navigate the vessel; and that while at Court he intended to suggest that the chief officer and engineers should be selected from some small maritime nation, such as Sweden, Denmark, or Holland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 183.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 18*, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 124 of the 1st instant relative to the regulations which the Moorish Government propose to establish in regard to communication with the Riff coast.

I approve the draft not enclosed by you in that despatch and your intention not to communicate it to the Moorish Government until all your colleagues have received final instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 16*, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102 of the 5th September last I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter and its inclosure which the Sultan's Commissioner here, Ben Saïd, has addressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body in regard to alleged abuse of certain provisions of the Convention of Madrid.

The portion of the communication which deals with the position of Moorish subjects who have acquired foreign naturalization does not concern those who have been naturalized British subjects, as, in accordance with the Naturalization Act of 1870, they lose their acquired nationality on returning to Morocco.

All of those provisions alluded to in the other sections of the communication, which are embodied in the Madrid Convention, are observed by British protégés, or if

omission to do so is brought to the notice of the competent British authority, a remedy is at once applied.

Some of the requests put forward by Ben Saïd will require modification and careful examination before being accepted. A meeting of the Diplomatic Body will shortly be held when the question will be discussed, but in the meantime I wished to place your Lordship in possession of the communication which has been received.

The opportunity may be a favourable one of impressing on the Moorish Government the necessity of it affording some guaranties that the frequent violations of the Madrid Convention by its own authorities will, in future, not pass unpunished.

I will communicate further with your Lordship after the Diplomatic Body has held its meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 184.

Ben Saïd to M. Auspach.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 2 *Rajab*, 1317 (*November* , 1899).

I HAD asked you in my letter to request the Representatives of the friendly Powers to fix a time for us to meet that I may expose to you, in accordance with the instructions of His Shereefian Majesty, may God glorify him, matters concerning the means of putting a stop to the infractions of the Convention of Madrid of 1880, so that all its prescriptions be put in force, and the proper measures to assure its strict execution, so that an end may be put to the inconvenience and annoyance springing from the non-execution of the prescriptions in question.

You replied under date of the 29th Jumad II ultimo that you had submitted to your colleagues my said letter, and that they asked me to let you know in writing the questions put forward by His Shereefian Majesty (compliments) in order to avoid delay, as if we have a meeting before they will have to ask me for a detailed and written statement of the questions to be treated.

You will receive herewith a note embodying the statement of the questions which have given rise to inconveniences and infractions of the Treaty in this Shereefian Empire, as also the measures which His Shereefian Majesty proposes to put a stop to them and thus cause to disappear every source of annoyance.

I beg you will submit this note to the Representatives of the Powers and let me know, when they have examined it, the place of meeting and the days they may fix for my interview with them and for the discussion of the matter.

(Signed) MOHAMMED ABDALLAH BEN SAÏD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 184.

Memorandum.

STATEMENT of the various causes which have given rise to abuses in His Shereefian Majesty's Empire, may God exalt him, because of the increasing number and irregular manner of the naturalization of Moorish subjects, who have become semsars, and mokhalats, contrary to the prescriptions of the Convention of Madrid of 1880, and of the number and irregular interferences which are contrary to the Treaties and Règlements which produced difficulties and losses to His Shereefian Majesty, God bless him.

ARTICLE I.—*Naturalized Subjects.*

1. Strict execution of Article XV of the Convention of Madrid.

2. I beg you to look into the infractions of this Article and the corruption which has arisen therefrom. An individual leaves this happy Empire for a short time and returns pretending to have become naturalized; and he intervenes on behalf of a great number of Moorish subjects without having himself the right of being naturalized.

Some of them remain in this country for a longer period than that which they spent in the country of which they have become naturalized British subjects, and for that reason have again become Moorish subjects. In spite of which they continually interfere on their behalf and extend their protection to numerous Moorish subjects.

I beg, therefore, that when in the future a subject of His Shereefian Majesty applies for a passport to travel in your country, you will send him first to the Chancery of Shereefian Mahzen at Tangier. There note will be taken of him, of his name, origin, and residence, and certificate of the above will be given to him, which, however, will in no way render the Mahzen responsible for the consequences which may arise therefrom, nor will this passport given by His Shereefian Majesty's Representative imply the authorization of the Shereefian Government to the naturalization, the authorization by the Shereefian Government can only be given by a Shereefian letter, as declared at Madrid by the late Sid Mohammed Bargash in the Protocol No. 11, the above-mentioned passport would only be given to facilitate the departure of the individual from the Government of the Mahzen, and also to regulate naturalization.

As soon as one of the individuals returns, and claims to be naturalized, the Representative of the country of which he has become a naturalized subject, will notify His Shereefian Majesty's Representative by letter of the day of his arrival in the following manner: So-and-so has arrived from a certain country, of which he has become a naturalized subject, the date of his patent is , he has lived in the country for , which is the period necessary to obtain a patent of naturalization in this country. His Shereefian Majesty's Representative will then give him a letter for the Governor of the locality which he is going to inhabit in Morocco; this letter will inform him that the bearer has become naturalized, informing him of the date and number of his patent and the length of time which it has taken him to obtain his patent.

If after the termination of an equivalent length of time the said individual should remain even a week in this territory, he will be supposed to have preferred to return to the jurisdiction of the Mahzen and will become a Moorish subject, and no excuse whatsoever for the extension of his residence will be taken. If, on the contrary, he should prefer to leave the country, he will be obliged to leave it with the whole of his family. As a matter of fact most of the naturalized subjects in Morocco have got their homes in it and only seek naturalization as a convenience to themselves, and not in the least to be useful to the country whose subjects they become.

I also beg of you to provide me with a list of the protégés that each one of you have in this country, with industry, date, and patent, of which they were bearers on their return from the country from which they have obtained naturalization, and also the legal time which has been necessary to obtain the said naturalization, in order that they may be treated in accordance to the conditions.

ARTICLE II.—*Protégés.*

1. Strict execution of the prescriptions of Article XVI of the Convention of Madrid.

2. I beg that you inform me who are your protégés in accordance with Article XVI, the reason for which they are protected, and the recognition of their protection by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan.

3. I also request an authentic copy of the list established in 1880 of your protégés before the Convention of Madrid.

ARTICLE III.—*Semsars.*

Semsars will be subject to the stipulations of the Convention of 1863, and by Article X of the Convention of Madrid.

Semsars will only be granted to merchants who have a house of commerce of importance, engaged in exportation and importation. They will be obliged each year to produce the receipt of the Oomanas in order that a check may be kept on their continued right to have semsars, or whether, owing to a cessation of business, a semsar is no longer necessary.

Numerous abuses and inconveniences have resulted from semsars being granted to merchants and to protégés who had no right to them.

Moreover, great harm has been done to the Mahzen by semsars taken in the country.

In fact, most of the country semsars make themselves a business thereby, not limiting themselves to their duties as semsars of buying and selling, but conducting themselves like Governors, collecting a number of people round them, and supporting them in their refusal to pay taxes and contributions to the Mahzen, and treat them as subjects and make partisans of them. When the Governor makes a complaint about them, the complaint is always turned against him.

I beg of you to look into the situation as regards country semsars. All semsars must be of the town, and if a semsar in both town and country is necessary, one must be only for the town and the other exclusively for the country, and subject to the condition that they do not make agglomerations around them, and that semsars will only be accorded to protégés or merchants in accordance with the Treaties.

ARTICLE IV.—*Mokhalats.*

This word is not mentioned in the Convention, therefore it is asked that it be abolished from conversation and correspondence, and that only the words servant, agricultural labourer, pastor of sheep, or other similar domestic animals be used, according to the Convention of Madrid of 1880 and the Convention of 1863.

I beg you will assist us in appointing the number of these servants and agricultural labourers, and pastors of domestic animals, which each foreign merchant has the right to in proportion to his trade, so that he shall not exceed the designated number agreed upon.

There shall be testimony against the agricultural labourer or pastor of what he has of the merchant in his charge, drawn up by town Adools and not by country Adools.

The document of testimony shall be renewed at the beginning of each year according to the rule of commercial accounts, as also the certificate of his employment shall be renewed, and if a document is produced anterior to the date or a certificate other than the renewed one, no account will be taken of it, and the Mahzen authorities will not give a decision in the future for a document unless renewed.

And if the Moorish authorities ask the merchant employing him, through the intermediary of his Consul, to inspect the documents attested against him belonging to the said merchant, so that he may know what he holds of the merchant's property and what he holds of his own, in order that he may pay the Mahzen dues thereon the same as his brethren, the Consul shall furnish him with them, and any person proffering the excuse that he has no documents from the merchants, what he may say afterwards will not be heard.

Also, when these servants and agricultural labourers and pastors of domestic animals are called upon to go to Haika (a Government expedition) along with their brethren, or to fulfil Mahzen duties, the Governor shall inform the Consul of that nation in order that he may order the owner of the domestic animals or the ploughing to send some one to superintend his property, that it may not be left to perish, and to safeguard the property of the merchants.

The Mahzen will concede to them a term of ten days from the date of the Governor's Notification (for this purpose), and after the ten days have elapsed he will have freedom of action over them, and nothing further can be said by his employer, and this will apply to other matters besides assault, wounding, or killing which are mentioned in the Convention.

ARTICLE V.—*Payment of Agricultural Taxes (Zaka and Jachar Legal Dues and Tithes).*

In the matter of legal arms and tithes agreed upon at Tangier, in accordance with Article XII of the Madrid Convention and the claims drawn up in Tangier on this subject, the Mahzen, may God glorify it, requests with confidence from the Representatives of the friendly respected Powers (the payment of) what is owing by foreign subjects, protégés, the majority of their partners and dependants who have neglected to pay, so that none of this may remain, and that they shall pay each year in accordance with the clauses drawn up on this subject. As also the Mahzen, may

God glorify it, requests the Representatives of the Powers to recommend their Consuls and their substitutes to give their help and good offices so that the whole of what is owed may be collected and to act in this matter in accordance with the Convention.

ARTICLE VI.

None shall be named employé save he who is engaged in his work and actually attending to it. But as to him who is so only in name, and is occupied in another place with his own affairs, he shall not be so named because of the harms caused by them, and the infraction created thereby.

ARTICLE VII.

It is requested of the Representatives of the Great Powers that the lists for the ensuing year 1900 may be entirely in conformity with the Madrid Treaty, because of the violations which the lists at present contain, among which is the taking of a semsar in Morocco by a merchant residing in Europe having no business house open in his name, as required by Treaties. Notwithstanding that the merchant himself only buys merchandize for them on commission, and other matters which were wont to be treated with indulgence, until they resulted in immense harms, causing the Mahzen to endure many troubles.

No. 185.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 4, 1899.*

MY despatch No. 125 of the 5th ultimo.

In order to command the new Moorish cruiser, the Moorish authorities are, I am informed, in negotiations with an officer of our Naval Reserve.

Without the sanction of Her Majesty's Government this officer, who is now serving on the "Anson," would not accept.

It is reported also that two engineers from Gibraltar, of British nationality, have been engaged, I believe, temporarily.

At present I have not been communicated with on the subject, but I think that, in some quarters, the appointment of British engineers and an officer would create suspicion and give umbrage. The unnecessary annoyance which would be caused is, I submit, scarcely justified by the advantage to be gained.

Is it your Lordship's wish that these proposals should be discouraged ?

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 129.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November 24, 1899.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104 of the 7th September, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting that the long-standing question of debts due to British merchants at Saffi appears to be reaching a settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 147.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November* 17, 1899.

RELATIVE to the settlement of Saffi debts I forwarded to Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, for his observations, a copy of the translation of the Grand Vizier's letter which was inclosed to me in your despatch No. 113 of the 1st instant. As I am transmitting herewith copy of Mr. Hunot's reply, it would only be wearisome to you were I to recapitulate its contents. There would appear to be good reasons for hoping that a fair and satisfactory settlement of this question is within reach, and I trust that this time there may be no disappointment.

It is, perhaps, too soon to be sure of this. When this particular sheaf of claims is finally achieved, I shall endeavour to formulate proposals for your approval with the view of preventing a collection of questions of a similar nature arising in the future.

I recognize that while it is necessary to avoid placing restrictions on trade, particularly in a country with primitive Law Courts, it is equally necessary to differentiate between transactions which are legitimate business and those which are characterized by greed on the part of individual merchants, and result in speculation, which is not justified in the present condition of Morocco, and is unfair to the native population.

For example, some of these Saffi debts probably arose from advances, disguised as sales of merchandize, made at the request of Kaïds to individuals representing a village community who were called upon to pay large sums of money to the Government. Thus, indirectly, merchants with a view to profit were assisting the Government to impoverish the native population.

Apart from the humanity point of view, and I believe all our merchants wish to be humane, this kind of transaction cannot be considered legitimate commerce, and must be detrimental to the general interests of the business of the country.

On behalf of the merchants concerned, and on my own, I would most respectfully express gratitude to you and Mr. White while you were absent in England for the great trouble you have taken to bring this question of Saffi debts to its present stage.

It has been a lesson to me to observe how patience and conciliation have overcome Oriental obstruction and procrastination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

Vice-Consul Hunot to Consul Maclean.

(No. 59.)

Sir, *Saffi, November* 14, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 35 of the 6th instant, transmitting copy of a translation of a note addressed by the Grand Vizier to his Excellency Sir A. Nicolson, on the subject of the debt question pending here, with a request that I should make some observations on the statement therein.

In reply I have only to repeat that Kaid-ben-Haima distinctly told me on several applications I made, that he was directed from the Court to abstain from interference in British cases, which he does not deny even now, adding that the Oomana were empowered to attend to them. When I then applied to the Oomana they stated that, having referred a complaint of the disobedience of the Kaids to the Court, they would not further address any Kaid until they had received a reply from head-quarters with renewed instructions. The reply to the Oomana's complaint was delayed several months and only recently, on the return of the Kaids from Court, did they receive fresh orders with a list of the debtors in each Kaid's district, with elaborate instructions how to proceed, and with reference to Messrs. Murdoch, Butler, and Co.'s semsar case, the Oomana said they were not authorized to interfere in such cases; their original orders were confined to debts only.

The various Kaids also had lists of debts supplied to them by the Court identical with those sent to the Oomana. I believe the Vizier gave them one month wherein to settle the debts. I, myself, have read one of the letters a Kaid received (and I believe all the other Kaids had similar letters) in which he was enjoined to send in the amount owing by each debtor himself within one month.

The Oomana were ordered to send to the Kaids for ten of the debtors at a time, but they have not sent as yet for any, as the Kaids have sent in their Khalifas with a few of the debtors, and the Khalifas have obtained from the merchants a list of the amounts still due, promising to settle the debts, as the Kaids have received ample authority to sell the lands of the debtors in cases where the debtors have absconded, and in cases where the debtor is dead. I believe the Kaids are now in earnest and that a termination of the debt question is likely to be accomplished.

Messrs. Hunot have accepted Kaid Salah Sebeety's offer to take over all the debts owing to them by Arabs in his district, and he has arranged through his secretary, with the cognizance of the town Kaid and the Oomana, to pay 700 dollars per month until the harvest season, when he will pay the balance of the money that may be due then, along with the remainder of the beans (777 camel loads).

The Kaid and the Oomana have addressed me a letter asking if Messrs. Hunot have accepted the offer, and I have replied they have, as per document given to them. The other Kaids are paying the merchants small sums, and I believe are intent on settling the whole of the debts before the next Moorish holiday, as they are ordered to take legalized acquittances with them to Court.

With regard to Kaid-ben-Haima, he has received fresh orders, similar to those lately issued to the Oomana regarding the old debts. He has also received orders to attend to new cases put forward by me.

He declares he is now willing to attend to any British case.

With regard to the Kadi, he absolutely refused to sanction the Adool to write evidence of the Arabs in Messrs. Murdoch, Butler's semsar's case, explained in my despatch No. 32 of the 31st May last.

He was most obstinate and sometimes kept documents over a fortnight before he would certify their contents.

I am glad to be able to report that he has since been removed from the port at Saffi, another Kadi has been appointed in his stead, who is expected here daily. I believe he was lately Kadi at Mazagan.

One good point in the late Kadi's character was that he was not known to have received bribes.

The change of Kadi and the issue of new orders to Kaid-ben-Haima is certainly in consequence of the representations made from the Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. HUNOT.

No. 187.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 130.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 25, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 126 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting of the Diplomatic Body was held yesterday to discuss the communication which had been received from the Moorish Government relative to the execution of the Madrid Convention and other matters concerning naturalization and protection.

The French Minister communicated a Memorandum which he had prepared on the subject, and which he considered might serve as a basis for discussion among ourselves. It was the general opinion that it would be advisable, in the first place, to agree upon the proposals which we should submit to our Governments, and after that we had all received their views and instructions, to open then, and not till then, discussions with the Sultan's Representative. It was also deemed advisable that we should report to our Governments as far as possible in an identic sense, presenting for their consideration certain points of which local experience had shown the importance, and on which we were all agreed.

The Memorandum of the French Minister will be circulated among the Representatives, and it was agreed that after each of us had had an opportunity of

studying it, a further meeting should be held to bring into accord, preliminary to reference to our Governments, the various views and proposals which the French Memorandum might suggest.

The question then arose as to what reply should, in the meantime, be sent to the Sultan's Representative, who appeared eager to open discussions on the subject. The German Minister informed us that he was quite willing to proceed with us up to the point of referring to our Governments the results of our collective examination of the Moorish requests; but that, in any case for the present, his co-operation would have to stop there. He had, he stated, received instructions to inform the Sultan's Representative that he could not enter into any discussion with the Moorish Government as to the Madrid Convention or matters cognate with it, until certain German complaints had been satisfied.

In these circumstances it was decided to simply acknowledge the receipt of the note of the Sultan's Representative and to inform him that the questions raised in it would be referred to the several Governments interested.

The Spanish and Austro-Hungarian Ministers seemed disposed to suggest to their Governments a course similar to that which the German Minister had been instructed to take; and to render discussion with the Moorish Government dependent on the settlement of certain outstanding claims and grievances.

The German Minister did not give us details as to the complaints which he had against the Moorish Government; but I gathered that they referred chiefly to the illegal imprisonment of some Mokhalats. If his complaints are limited to the above, constituting as they do infractions of the Madrid Convention, the moment may not be ill chosen for a request for their redress. I trust the complaints have not a wider scope, for if he intends to present a comprehensive list of grievances, extraneous to the Madrid Convention, and his example be followed by others, I fear all discussion with the Moorish Government would be shelved. This, I think, would be a matter for regret, as it seems to me that the opportunity now offered is a favourable one for exacting from the Moorish Government some guarantees that they, and their officials, should on their part strictly observe certain provisions of the Madrid Convention, which they have of late so often violated to the grave detriment of foreign interests. There are several points in the Moorish proposals which are reasonable and just, and there is no doubt that certain grave abuses of the Convention on the part of foreigners have been allowed to creep in. While, therefore, offering to find remedies for such abusee, we should be in a good position to insist on the Moorish authorities carrying out strictly their part of the agreement.

In any case it will not be a waste of time to present, after full discussion among ourselves, some definite proposals for the consideration of our Governments in regard to the several points raised in the Moorish communication, as well as in respect to other matters connected with the Madrid Convention.

Before the views of the several Governments have been received, a considerable time must elapse, and there is, therefore, no necessity of deciding at present whether any conditions should be imposed preliminary to opening negotiations with the Moorish Government. Moreover, there will be ample opportunity of ascertaining the manner in which the Moorish Government receive the communication which the German Minister has been instructed to make, and also whether his example has been followed by others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister stated to me that he proposed suggesting to his Government to adopt the same course as had been taken by the German Minister here, and make any discussion in regard to the execution of the Convention of Madrid dependent on the settlement of certain Spanish claims and grievance against the Moorish Government. M. de Ojeda explained that he had of late had serious causes of complaint against the attitude of the Moorish authorities in the Riff, in the neighbourhood of the Spanish port of Alhucemas. The Moorish General had prohibited all intercourse between the Spanish garrison at the above port and the surrounding district; and this measure was causing very serious inconvenience, as a large part of the supplies for Alhucemas had hitherto been drawn from the Riff districts. The numerous representations which he had made on the subject had received no attention.

Moreover, the Spanish Consular officers on the coast were continually complaining that no heed was paid to any cases in which Spanish subjects were interested; and he could not conceal from himself that there appeared to be a deliberate intention to ignore all the requests and remonstrances which he addressed to the Moorish Government.

Since the war with the United States he had observed a very marked change in the attitude of the Moorish authorities towards all Spanish affairs.

Spain was not in a position, M. Ojeda continued, to take any measures by herself to remedy this condition of things; and he, therefore, considered the present opportunity a favourable one of obtaining some redress, by following in the wake of Germany.

The Austro-Hungarian Minister informed me that as he has one or two long outstanding claims he will also follow the same course.

I am inclined to fear that the Moorish Government will prefer to abandon all discussion as to the Madrid Convention to satisfying demands which would probably entail a heavy drain on the Treasury, and which it would consider had little connection with the matter on which it was anxious to treat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 189.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 5, 1899.

LIEUTENANT W. LEADER, of the Royal Naval Reserve, at present serving on Her Majesty's ship "Anson," stationed at Gibraltar, called at the Legation yesterday morning in regard to an offer which had been made to him on the part of the Sultan's Deputy here to take command of the new Moorish cruiser the "Bachir." As I was attending a meeting of the Diplomatic Body I was unable to see Mr. Leader, but I am informed that he explained that negotiations between him and the Moorish authorities had not been concluded, and that he was unwilling to accept the post, supposing an agreement was arrived at in regard to terms, unless his appointment was sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government and he was allowed to continue on the list of Naval Reserve officers.

Nothing has been said to me by the Moorish authorities a sto these negotiations, in regard to which I was in ignorance. I understand that the Italian officers who brought the vessel here left Tangier almost immediately after their arrival, owing, I am told, to their refusal to accept the terms offered by the Moorish Government. The vessel was therefore left without any European staff, and two engineers were engaged at Gibraltar to keep the machinery in order. I will ascertain on what terms these engineers were engaged and for what length of time.

The appointment of an English officer in command of the "Bachir" would doubtless cause suspicion and jealousy in certain quarters. It is true that the other two Moorish vessels were commanded by Germans, one of whom was displaced in favour of a Swede, but the vessels are old merchant steamers practically unarmed, and the officers are also in the merchant service. The appointment of a Naval Reserve officer to an armed cruiser is a different matter and would be viewed in a different light. Personally I do not see what substantial advantage would accrue to British interests, naval or other, by such an appointment. Certain Legations would, I think, make strong representations on the subject, and it would be undesirable if once the appointment were made the Moorish Government was induced to cancel it. Moreover, the Italian Minister, as I reported in my despatch No. 125 of the 5th November, intends suggesting to the Court that the vessel should be officered by men selected from some minor Maritime Power, expressly with the view of not arousing foreign susceptibilities or making difficulties; and he would, doubtless, and possibly

his Government also, deem it irregular if during his absence the vessel were equipped with a British naval staff.

If your Lordship concurs I could suggest to the Moorish authorities here to await the results of the proposals which the Italian Minister is making at the Court on the subject, and not commit themselves to any arrangement with British or any other foreign naval officers until they hear further from their superiors at Morocco city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 190.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1899.

I APPROVE the suggestion contained in the last paragraph of your despatch No. 133 of the 5th instant, on the subject of the new Moorish cruiser "Bachir."

No. 191.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 134. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 7, 1899.

MR. CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM is interested in some scheme for developing the resources of the back country of the Rio d'Oro, and has of late been travelling frequently between Madrid and Tangier in view of arranging matters with the Spanish authorities. The Spanish Minister here had been instructed to discuss the question with Mr. Cunningham Graham, and I believe the negotiations have advanced to a certain stage. Mr. Cunningham Graham is leaving for Madrid to-morrow, having, he informed me, been called thither by Señor Silvela.

On paying me a visit this morning, he mentioned that the Spanish Legation had suggested to him to obtain from the Spanish Government the loan of a gun-boat, and to proceed to Santa Cruz de Tequeña to hoist the Spanish flag. I asked Mr. Graham where he located the above-mentioned place, and he informed me that he had been told at the Spanish Legation that it should either be at Porto Cansado or Boca Grande, both being a little to the north of Cape Juby. Mr. Graham inquired of me what view Her Majesty's Government would take if he proceeded on his mission. I showed him Article VIII of the Spanish Treaty of 1860, and pointed out the provisions of that Article. By the terms of the Treaty it was evident that no flag could be hoisted until a distinct understanding had been arrived at with the Moorish Government as to the locality and limit of the ground which was to be employed as a fishing establishment. To hoist a flag without such previous understanding would be a violation of Treaty engagements, and I recommended him not to embark on the enterprise.

Mr. Cunningham Graham, who was not cognisant of the exact terms of the Treaty, will not, I think, entertain the suggestion made to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 192.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 9, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that I have caused to be conveyed, through a private channel, to the Deputy of the Sultan, that the Italian Minister will discuss with the Grand Vizier the question of the staff of officers for the cruiser the "Bachir," and that he intends to recommend that the officers should be selected from the subjects of some minor Maritime Power.

It would, therefore, I intimated, be more prudent to await the results of the discussion with the Grand Vizier before taking any steps here.

I am informed that the negotiations with Mr. Leader have been broken off, and that the Deputy of the Sultan has strongly recommended to the Moorish Government to sell the "Bachir," which he considers a costly and unsuitable vessel. He suggests that two, or if possible three, small steamers should be acquired with the produce of the sale, which could carry cargo and be lightly armed for coast guard purposes, if so required.

I am also informed that the two engineers on board are simply engaged by the month, and that it was necessary to obtain them so as to keep the machinery in order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 12, 1899.

I HAVE the hononr to report that the Italian Minister presented his credentials to the Sultan on the 3rd instant. M. de Malumsi arrived at Morocco City on the 21st ultimo, and the delay in according him his official audience was due to the fact of the Sultan having been indisposed. The ceremony, I am informed, was very short, and was limited to the usual formal speeches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 194.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 13, 1899.

I HAVE recently had occasion to inquire into the number of cases in which Moorish subjects are imprisoned on account of robberies from British subjects, and the length of time they have been detained in prison. I am happy to say that the cases are few; but in each case apparently the man or men have been arrested and detained without having undergone any trial, or having had any opportunity of calling evidence in their defence.

The usual course of procedure appears to be as follows: a robbery is committed in which a British subject is the sufferer; complaint is made to the Governor of the town or district, who is requested to arrest the culprits and recover the stolen property. The Governor seizes, frequently at haphazard, some individuals, puts them in prison, and announces that he has captured the offenders. He then considers that, so far as he is concerned, the matter is at an end. As a rule no trial is held, and the individuals, possibly quite innocent men, may remain indefinitely in prison. If a request be made to the Governor to afford the men a fair trial, or to release them, the reply usually is that the men will be set at liberty if all claims or complaints in regard to the robbery are abandoned.

This system is exceedingly unjust to all parties, and, moreover, its toleration gives the appearance of British authorities and British subjects acquiescing in the evils which Moorish maladministration engenders. It is, I confess, a task beyond the powers of British authorities, and beyond their competeney, to endeavour to effect a general remedy of those evils; but I think that within the limits prescribed by Treaty, and in cases where British subjects are concerned, efforts should be made to observe some procedure which would lessen the hardships to which I have alluded, and which would, perhaps, eventually show the Moorish authorities that there are certain elementary principles of justice which it is desirable to uphold.

I have the honour to transmit copy of a Circular which I recently addressed to the Consular officers on the subject.

This Circular, nevertheless, deals with only one portion of the question, as it cannot be denied that robberies occur occasionally with the connivance or even by the direct action of the local authorities, and that frequently no efforts are made by the authorities for the recovery of the stolen property or for discovering the real offenders.

I venture, therefore, to submit to your Lordship the draft of a note which I would propose to address to the Grand Vizier, in which I trust I have made it clear to his Excellency that while British Consular officers will, so far as they properly can, assist the Moorish authorities in cases in which British interests are involved, in elucidating the guilt or innocence of the accused, circumstances may render it necessary to hold the local authorities themselves responsible, and even to request that they should compensate the injured party for his losses.

The question of compensation is one which can only be dealt with on the merits of each individual case. It would be well to limit it, as I have indicated in my proposed note, and the practice has been generally followed in British cases, to instances where the authorities have shown real negligence in dealing with the matter at issue. Compensation would naturally be also demanded when the robbery occurred, as not unfrequently happens in country districts, with the direct connivance or by the direct action of the provincial authorities.

I do not anticipate that my proposed note will smooth away all difficulties, or remedy all hardships, but it may effect some improvement; and I would be glad to know if your Lordship would permit me to communicate it to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Circular addressed by Sir A. Nicolson to Consular Officers.

Sir, *Tangier, November* 11, 1899.

I SHOULD wish to make a few observations on the procedure it would be desirable to follow when complaints or actions are brought by British subjects against Moorish subjects. It is proper and in accordance with Article 113 of the Morocco Order in Council that the complaint should, in the first instance, be brought to the notice of the Moorish authorities by the Consular Representative, and that, if necessary, the former should be requested to arrest the individual, or individuals, who are alleged to be implicated in the offence. So far as my experience enables me to judge, it frequently happens that, in cases of robbery, for instance, the actual perpetrators are unknown, and that the authorities are inclined to arrest any individual somewhat at haphazard. They then consider they have discharged their duty, no searching inquiry is made, and the imprisoned person or persons may remain in prison indefinitely.

I am extremely anxious that when any Moorish subject is arrested on account of a British case, either merely on suspicion or at the wish of the authorities, or at the direct specific request of the injured party, a full and impartial inquiry should take place before the competent Moorish authorities.

As provided in Article 113 of the Order in Council, I am of opinion that a deputy from the Consular officer should invariably be present at that inquiry, and that care should be taken that the accused person should have every opportunity of defending himself and calling witnesses on his own behalf. It is desirable that so far as local circumstances permit, the inquiry should be held on the same lines as would a magisterial inquiry in Great Britain. Should the Consular deputy consider that a fair inquiry was not being held he should report accordingly to his Chief, who could, if desirable, refer the matter to this Legation.

It is doubtless difficult, if not impossible, in the event of the guilt of an accused party having been proved, to induce the Moorish authorities to impose a specified term of imprisonment adequate in regard to the offence committed.

This difficulty could, however, I think, be obviated if the Consular officer decided in his own mind what would be a proper term of imprisonment, and on the expiration of such term requested the release of the prisoner.

As regards the imprisonment of debtors, it is hardly necessary for me to add that their incarceration should not be requested unless some element of fraud has been introduced into the transaction with the creditor, or unless the debtor can be proved to have quite sufficient means to pay, but wilfully declines to do so. A debtor who is unable to meet his liabilities through simple insolvency should not, on that account alone, be imprisoned.

I feel confident that I shall receive the support of the Consular officers towards attaining the object I have in view, namely, that any Moorish subject against whom a charge is brought by a British subject, or who is imprisoned on account of a British complaint, should receive a full and impartial trial. I should be happy to receive any suggestions in respect to that point which may occur to any Consular officer to whom this Circular is addressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Draft of proposed Note of Sir A. Nicolson to the Grand Vizier.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* , 1899.

I SHOULD wish, oh friend, to draw your attention to some points connected with the present method of dealing with cases in which British have occasion to apply to Moorish authorities for redress, and I would take as an instance a British subject who has been the victim of a robbery. In such a case the British subject reports the matter to his Consular authority, who, after having satisfied himself that the complaint is justified, communicates with the local authority, and requests the arrest of the perpetrators of the robbery and the recovery of the stolen property.

I find that in most cases the local authority arrests some individuals, places them in prison, and then informs the Consular authority that the offenders have been seized. There, unfortunately, the matter usually rests, and the men are detained indefinitely in prison without any full inquiry having been held, while the injured party finds himself without redress and doubtful whether the real offenders are not still at large, enjoying the fruits of their plunder.

I believe that there is an impression prevalent among many provincial and local authorities that unless some one is arrested a claim for compensation will eventually be made upon them, and in order to escape this contingency, and also, in some cases, to avoid the trouble of searching for the real culprits or for the stolen property, persons are arrested somewhat at haphazard. I am sure you will agree with me that this practice opens the door to grave injustice to all parties, both to those who are imprisoned as well as to those who have been the victims of the robbery.

Article IX of the Treaty of 1856 lays down a procedure which, if followed, would insure a fair trial of the persons who have been arrested, and which would also, in all probability, materially assist in the elucidation of the truth and in the detection of the real offenders. I feel confident that these are the sole objects your Excellency has in view, and I can assure you of the ready co-operation of all British Consular officers towards the same ends.

I have recently instructed British Consular officers that in cases in which British subjects have differences or disputes, or causes of litigation with Moorish subjects, either on account of robberies or other offences, they should request the Kaïd or other competent authority to hold an inquiry, at which both the plaintiff and the accused would be enabled to bring forward any witnesses or evidence which they might desire to proffer. The Consular officer would be represented by his deputy, so that all the conditions prescribed by Treaty should be fulfilled. You will, doubtless, oh friend, on your side, also remind provincial and local authorities of the necessity of strictly observing the provisions of the above-mentioned Article IX, which was evidently inserted in the Treaty with the object of securing fair trials and the attainment of the ends of justice.

I should also wish to take this opportunity ot removing what I think is a misconception in regard to compensation on account of robberies. You will, I know, allow me to remark that it is unfortunate that proper police supervision and control are not maintained in all the towns of this Empire, and that the machinery for the detection

of crime is not more effective. I am sure that these are defects which engage your serious attention, and which you are desirous of remedying as speedily and as thoroughly as circumstances permit. It is undeniable that in every country some robberies occur where the offenders escape with their booty. Even with the best organized police force such mishaps do occasionally take place. I admit, therefore, that it would be unfair in Morocco to demand compensation in every case where the stolen property was not recovered and restored. But in every case in which I have requested that the victim of a robbery should be compensated for his loss, I have been compelled to do so because the authorities have shown such negligence and apathy in the performance of their duties as to insure perfect immunity to the culprits, and to exclude all possibility of recovering what has been stolen. There are also other cases, chiefly, if not entirely, in the country districts, where, I regret to say, the authorities have themselves connived at depredations on the property of British subjects, which it should be their special duty to protect. In all the above cases the demand for compensation is equitable and just, and, indeed, necessary. I trust that such cases will become rarer, but so long as they exist, compensation must continue to be demanded.

I should be glad if you would take what I have written into your serious consideration; and may you rest, &c.

No. 195.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marqness of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 138.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 16, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 135 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to state that I have been informed that the Sultan's deputy here has engaged M. Cailacino, a native of Gibraltar, to act as Captain of the "Bachir" cruiser. This gentleman was master of one of the small packet-boats plying between Gibraltar and Tangier, but was dismissed some time back by his employers for some alleged malpractices. He is engaged merely by the month, and I understand that the Sultan's deputy was anxious to secure some one—though it may be doubted whether his choice is a very happy one—in order to keep the vessel in decent order, as I hear that no attention was being paid to cleanliness, and that the guns were already beginning to rust.

I hardly think it would be desirable for me to take any further steps in the matter, having already conveyed one suggestion to the Sultan's deputy, unless your Lordship would desire me to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 196.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No 103. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 134, Confidential, of the 7th instant, relative to the suggestion made to Mr. Cunningham Graham by the Spanish Legation at Tangier that he should obtain the loan of a gun-boat from the Spanish Government, and proceed to Santa Cruz de Pequeña for the purpose of hoisting the Spanish flag there.

The advice given by you to Mr. Cunningham Graham, as reported in that despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 105.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1899.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 137 of the 13th instant, relative to the practice pursued by the Moorish Government of arresting Moorish subjects and detaining them in prison without trial on account of robberies from British subjects.

I approve the terms of the note, inclosed in your despatch, which you propose to address to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 198.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 140.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 22, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I am informed that the Sultan's Deputy here has now cancelled the engagement of M. Cailiacino as Commander of the Moorish cruiser the "Bachir," and has, pending instructions from the Government, provisionally appointed in his place the Commander of the Moorish steamer the "Sid-el-Turki," who is of German nationality. I have thought it advisable to inform the Italian Minister privately of the action which I took in regard to the negotiations with Mr. Leader, R.N.R., without mentioning that I had referred the matter to your Lordship. It seemed to me desirable that M. de Malmusi should not be under any misapprehension as to the action of this Legation, nor conceive that an attempt had been made to place British officers on the vessel during his absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.